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WEEKLY

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BIG AUSTRALIA-ENGLAND CLASH LOOMS ON JUNE 1 ...

FARINA DOUBT!

BY TOM ANDERSON

ACE FC Brugge striker Frank Farina is in grave doubt for the big Socceroo clash against England at the Sydney Football Stadium on Saturday June 1.

At the present time, Farina has less than a 50-50 chance of leading Australia's attack in this prestigious clash.

His unavailability would come as a drastic blow to coach Eddie Thomson's national team planning.

At the weekend Farina, by telephone from Belgium, disclosed to Australian Soccer Weekly there were too many "ifs, buts and maybes" clouding the scene for his proposed Socceroo appearance against the star-studded England outfit.

"It all depends on my situation here in Europe," he told me.

"And to be perfectly honest, at the present time the odds are stacked against me playing in Sydney on June 1.

"Transfer negotiations between my agent and an Italian club are in progress and are looking quite good.

"And, if they come to fruition, then I will definitely not play.

"Also at this stage it looks 80% certain I



Frank Farina with fiancée Julie — they plan to marry in Cairns on June 29.

will be on the move from Belgium.

"However, on the other hand, if I do decide to accept a new

contract with Brugge, there is still a major problem.

"We are still in the Belgian Cup and if

we make the final, which we are confident we can, it will be played in June and this will rule me out of the England game.

"Brugge have also given me until the end of March to decide whether I stay with them or be transferred."

However, like the true professional he is, Frank has tentatively made two bookings to fly home.

One at the end of May and the other in mid June.

He also disclosed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Holmes — Johnston double

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THE choice of NSW Soccer Federation general manager Ian "Hurricane" Holmes as project manager for the 7th World Youth Championship finals for the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup should lead to a big promotion double, the other leg being ASF Youth ambassador, Craig Johnston.



IAN HOLMES

and Coca-Cola."

Mr Constantine added that there was a very good chance that

Ian Holmes would be able to view World Cup finals administration and promotion at first hand at this year's finals in Portugal next June.

As a member of the FIFA World Youth Championship executive, Mr Constantine will receive a full briefing on the scene, and will himself attend the finals.

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ACTION PACKED SYDNEY OLYMPIC-MARCONI



Marconi's John Markovski strides it out in the 1-1 draw with Sydney Olympic at St George Stadium on Sunday night. Covering is Andrew Bernal (No 5) with David Barrett (left). Photo by STEVEN GOSCH.

The World Youth Championship finals will be held in Australia in 1993, a huge event in world football and a great follow up seeing that Australia staged the event in 1981.

ASF chairman John Constantine said: "Nothing has been formalised as yet, but Craig's involvement in the Championship promotion is certain to intensify.

"For Ian Holmes, there will be a short overlap whilst he finishes duties with the NSW Federation, but his services are required almost immediately.

"There is a lot of preparatory work required, including complicated negotiations with both FIFA

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Lottery look about Round 22

By ALISTAIR RUSSELL

ROUND 22 of the QNSL looks a bit of a lottery this weekend, with much of Australia's young talent in camp for the Youth World Cup qualifying matches against Israel.

Already a casualty because of the Israeli sortie is the much awaited clash at the head of the table between Melbourne Croatia and Marconi, the match now postponed until March 27.

Many other clubs, particularly Preston, Sunshine and St George, could miss key players this weekend, in which South Melbourne's visit to Preston should be the pick of the action.

For Preston, the two points on their home turf where they have dominated all season is vital if they are to stay in the race for the play-offs.

Only one defeat and a miserly two goals conceded in their last six matches at Connor Reserve, has kept Preston in touch with the leaders, while their away record is one of the worst in the league.

The home side should be without key striker Kris Trajanovski, who is almost a certainty to be on national duty.

Souths, on the other hand, have slumped of late, with just one win away in their last three



LORENZ KINDTNER — Sunshine will miss his brilliance.

games, scoring just three goals in the process.

History, however, favours Souths.

Down the years Preston has managed just two wins and a pathetic six goals in 10 clashes at home with their Melbourne rivals, and again Souths with so much at stake should end Preston's season early.

Sunshine, thrown a lifeline following their emphatic win at Sydney Croatia yesterday, face another do or die effort when they host

champions Sydney Olympic.

Perhaps the key to this clash will be the absence of Georgie's young star Lorenz Kindtner, also likely to be on national service.

Hat-trick hero Derek Hunter and Gary Hasler will hold the key for the Cross attack, while Olympic are beginning to get their championship-winning outfit

New coach Tony Vrzina tasted success for the first time at Georgie and how sweet was the 5-0 drubbing of his old club.

The victory yesterday aside, Sunshine have played poorly of late, three straight defeats at home and scoring only once.

Olympic have only one win under their belt away from their home patch all season and have managed

Croatia, destined to finish mid-table, clash in a face-saving match at Lambert Park this weekend.

The visitors, surprisingly belted out of the semi-final race yesterday, have won five of their seven matches at Apia and have gone down on only one occasion.

However, Croatia have just one win away from Edensor Park this campaign while Apia are unbeaten in their last six games at Lambert Park, conceding only one goal in the process.

With wholesale changes likely at Croatia, Apia should end their long hoodoo on their home field by taking both points.

Melita, desperately clinging to a shot at the play-offs, visit the difficult Heidelberg this weekend.

The Bergers have proved a most stubborn opponent this season, and on Sunday could wreck the Eagles' dreams with another typical display.

The home side, despite their low position on the ladder, have lost just once and have conceded a paltry six goals in their last nine matches at Olympic Village.

The Eagles have lost just twice on the road this season, and a draw here looks likely, which in the end may not be enough to get Melita home.

Wollongong City



Gary Phillips and Jean-Paul de Marigny (left) at St George Stadium yesterday. Olympic and Marconi drew 1-1 — **STEVE GOSCH** photo.

QUIT NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melb. Croatia	21	13	5	3	43	30	31
Marconi	21	13	3	5	40	23	29
South Melbourne	21	11	5	5	37	27	27
Adelaide City	21	8	9	4	25	19	25
Sydney Olympic	21	7	10	4	26	22	24
Parra Melita	21	7	8	6	24	20	22
Preston	21	7	7	7	23	21	21
Wollongong City	21	7	6	8	25	26	20
Sydney Croatia	21	6	8	7	23	28	20
Apia Leichhardt	21	6	6	9	22	23	18
Heidelberg Utd	21	4	8	9	20	30	16
St George	21	2	10	9	21	33	14
Wollongong Macedonia	21	3	8	10	19	35	14
Sunshine GC	21	5	3	13	31	42	13

Results

SYDNEY CROATIA 0 SUNSHINE GC 5 (Hunter 3, Hasler, Mori) at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 1876.
SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 (Palatsides, Wade) APIA 1 (Bundalo) at Middle Park. Crowd: 3500.
MELB CROATIA 1 (Kelic) HEIDELBERG UTD 0 at Somers St. Crowd: 4500.
PARRA MELITA 2 (Genc, Soper) ST GEORGE 1 (O'Shea) at Melita Stadium. Crowd: 2690.
WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA 2 (Murray 2) PRESTON 1 (Markovac) at Brandon Park. Crowd: 5217.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Perinovic) MARCONI 1 (Markovski) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 6038.
ADELAIDE CITY 1 (Maxwell) WOLLONGONG CITY 1 (Skeen) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 3700.

CROWDS

ROUND 21: 27,521
AVERAGE PER GAME: 3,931
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 484,839
AVERAGE PER ROUND: 23,087

TOP SCORERS

TONY KRSLOVIC (Sydney Croatia)	15
DAVID SEAL (Marconi)	15
GREG BROWN (Parra Melita)	11
IVAN KELIC (Melbourne Croatia)	11
FRANCIS AWARITEFE (Melbourne Croatia)	9
ANDY HARPER (St George)	9

AUSTRALIA vs ISRAEL

World Youth Championship Qualifier — Two-match series

Presented by the Australian Soccer Federation

Sydney Football Stadium, March 6 and 9 at 7.30pm

Come and support your Youth Players as they fight for a place in Portugal in June. A great opportunity for all junior players to see our Under 20s at work.

Tickets on sale now at Ticketek

Single match tickets \$12 adults/\$3 children and pensioners. All general admission. Take advantage of our special two-match price \$20/\$5, advance sales only. Tickets from all Ticketek outlets or by phoning **266 4800**.



Ian Gray (left) and Steve Refenes strain every muscle as they vie for possession in the 1-1 draw between Marconi and Sydney Olympic yesterday — **STEVE GOSCH** photo.

back on the park and injury-free.

The home side have not tasted victory over Olympic for four years and in fact have won only once in the nine matches between the sides, scoring just four goals.

only three goals in their last five away matches.

The visitors must win on Sunday, and their desperation alone should get the defending champs home.

Apia and Sydney

should take the spoils in the return match of their South Coast derby clash with Wollongong Macedonia.

While the Saints could snare a point when they host semi-final contenders Adelaide City.

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Ivan Petkovic leads Player of Year

BY GREG BLAKE

THE race for the 1990/91 Australian Soccer Weekly QNSL Player of the Year is really hot-ting up.

With less than half a dozen rounds of the home and away season to play any one of more than a ten top QNSL stars are in the running to take out the prestigious award.

At the end of round 20 Sydney Croatia's Ivan Petkovic was leading last year's inaugural winner, St George star John Filan, by a slender margin.

But the race is on in earnest and is certain to go down to the wire. And for the eventual victor goes the spoils, compliments of award sponsor, Pascoe Vale Sports Scene.

Pascoe Vale Sports Scene, located at 413-415 Bell Street, Pascoe Vale South, is providing a magnificent engraved trophy for the winner as well as a cheque for \$500.

To follow the fortunes of your favourite QNSL players here is a complete list of all players to poll votes to the end of round 20.

For an up-dated look at the leader board following last weekend's round of matches, turn to ASW's QNSL match



IVAN PETKOVIC

report pages in this edition.

Votes to the end of round 20.

- 19 — Petkovic (SC)
- 17 — Filan (StG)
- 16 — Okon (Marc), Biskic (MC), Kupresak (SC), Phillips (SO)
- 14 — Ivanovic (AC), Bundalo (A), Stewart (A), Stubbins (H), Kuc (Woll)
- 13 — Clarkson (SGC)
- 12 — Tzolakis (SM)

- 11 — T. Vidmar (AC), Lowe (Marc), McCulloch (Marc)

- 10 — McDowall (B), Katos (Marc), Jackson (PM), Petersen (SM), Krslovic (SC)
- 5 — Oliver (H), Wheatley (Marc), Donnelly (MC), Zinni (PM), Blair (SM), Maclaren (SM), Taliadoros (SM), Wade (SM), Baillie (StG), El Ali (StG), Koczka (StG), Katsakidis (SCC), Spyridakos (SO), Cahut (Woll), Kay (WM).

- 1 — Okon (A), Markovski (Marc), Caleta (MC), Callanan (ME), Trajanovski (PM), Traianedes (PM), Postecoglou (SM), Ilic (StG), Waddell (SGC), Bennett (SO), Barrett (SO).

- 3 — Jennings (A), McFadden (A), McQuarrie (A), Seal (Marc), Awaritefe (MC), O'Donnell (ME), Palatsides (SM), Trimboli (SM), Poric (StG), Hunter (SGC), Hristodoulou (SO), Bate (Woll), Bouhoutsos (Woll),

- Brodnik (Woll), Martin Bourke (WM), Murray (WM), Bradley (WM), Nasteovski (WM).

- 2 — Tobin (AC), Veart (AC), M. Brown (A), Miranda (A), Lemezina (A), Goutzoulis (H), Scott (H), de Marigny (Marc), Selemidis (MC), Fabrizio (SGC), Hasler (SGC), Mori (SGC), De Amicis (SGC), Lamond (SC), Runje (SC), Bernal (SO), Edwards (SO), Green (Woll), McEvoy (Woll), Cavanah (WM).

- 1 — Csoboth (AC), Shillabeer (AC), Clinch (A), Ellem (A), Gomez (A), Slifkas (H), Kelic (MC), Miller (MC), Barrios (ME), Brown (ME), Gunning (ME), Healy (SM), O'Shea (StG), Keogh (SGC), Talia (SGC), Ricoy (SC), Carter (SC), Stanton (SC), Gibson (SC), Gosling (SO), Hagan (SO), Hooker (SO), Meier (SO), Refenes (SO), Hollifield (Woll), Lloyd (Woll), Naumov (WM), Pontidis (WM), Young (WM).

Attacking policy pays dividends for Melita

BY LACHLAN BARKER

MELITA Eagles showed a hard edge of professional competence in their 2-1 defeat of St George at Melita Stadium last night.

Melita boss Raul Blanco's long-standing policy of attack, attack and more attack paid handsome dividends in last night's victory.

Hostilities opened in the 15th minute of the game when Melita winger Aytec Genc broke free on the flank and his cross to Gus Cerro was accurate but



GREG BROWN

ky on this occasion. St George, for their

Greg Brown on the opposite flank with his cross.

Brown sliced open the St George defence with a measured through ball that was collected by Genc and coolly slotted under the despairing Filan.

This goal just increased Melita's appetite for attack and in the 74th minute they went two ahead.

Genc played an intelligent through ball for Brown who took the ball to the byline and crossed to the far post where Marshall Soper was completely unmarked and had the net at his mercy.

He competently nodded the ball in and at 2-0 up it was all over bar the shouting.

However, St George veteran Mike O'Shea grabbed a consolation goal at the very death of the game to give the Saints a crumb of comfort.

Blanco was obviously happy with the two points as well as the competent performance but for St George coach Frank Arok the result was surely the death knell of St George's chances to avoid relegation.

MELITA: McPherson 6, Callanan 6, O'Donnell 6, Hunter 6, Gonzalez 6, Mason 5 (Vial 78), Cerro 6, Gimenez 5 (Rezo 82), Soper 7, Genc 6, Brown 6.



WASHINGTON GONZALEZ

Cerro's shot was just wide.

Cerro is showing increasing large amounts of his old form as evident in the 22nd minute when he used his exquisite side step to go round two St George defenders and slipped through a gap that most would say a worm would not have fitted through.

In the 26th minute Melita spearhead Marshall Soper slammed a bullet-like shot against the crossbar and then in the 35th he almost slipped the ball past Saints' keeper John Filan but was also unluc-

part, were best served by stop-gap striker Andy Harper who fed ravenously on the diet of accurate passes supplied by his skipper Andy Koczka and was unlucky on several occasions not to score.

Though the teams went to the break locked at 0-0, the crowd were pleased with the large slabs of action being provided.

Their excitement peaked in the 70th minute when second half substitute Lenny Vial broke free on the right flank and located

OSVALDO EL ALI

ST GEORGE: Filan 6, Milicevic 5 (Longo 75), Clantar 5, Moffitt 5, Koczka 6, O'Shea 6, Harper 6, Poric 5, Freestone 5, El Ali 7, Baillie 4 (Ilic 45 6).

SCORERS: Genc 70m, Soper 74m (M); O'Shea 96m (SG).

YELLOW CARDS: Cerro 24m (M); O'Shea 82m (SG).

REFEREE: G Dunster 6.

CROWD: 2,690.

QUIT NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE



WEEKEND
FIXTURES

ROUND 22



SUNDAY, MARCH 3

SUNSHINE GC vs SYDNEY OLYMPIC
Skinner Reserve 3pm

APIA LEICHHARDT vs SYDNEY CROATIA
Lambert Park 3pm

PRESTON MAKEDONIA vs STH MELBOURNE
Conner Reserve 3pm

WOLLONGONG CITY vs WOLL MACEDONIA
Brandon Park 6pm

ST GEORGE vs ADELAIDE CITY
St George Stadium 7pm

HEIDELBERG vs MELITA EAGLES
Olympic Village 3pm

MARCONI vs MELBOURNE CROATIA
deferred to Wed 27.3.91 7.30pm



Bruce MacLaren
Sth Melbourne Hellas



Phil Trianedes
Preston Makedonia



Brett Hughes
(Apia Leichhardt)



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TORWARTHANDSCHUHE



Wollongong takes Macedonian derby at Brandon Park

BY LEN CHAFER



DARREN WILSON — gave away a penalty.

IN front of a large crowd of 5,217, Wollongong Macedonia with a goal at either end of the first half, won the all-Macedonia clash against Preston by 2-1.

Wollongong's opening goal came as early as the second minute, when Zlatko Nastevski took a free kick on the right 30 metres out and Peter Murray outjumped the Preston defence to head the ball into the roof of the net.

Murray repeated the dose in the closing seconds of the first half when he nodded home from a corner taken by Bob Naumov.

Preston failed to impress for most of the first period, but had one chance in the 15th minute following a mix-up between Wollongong's fullback John Cavanah and keeper Peter Wilson.

With Wilson left stranded Cavanah, chasing back, was able to clear the ball off the

goal line.

Wollongong's defence kept Warren Spink quiet for the first half and Preston looked flat up front.

Murray was to prove a handful for the Preston defence and he went close to scoring twice again in the first half.

In the 10th minute Murray missed the target by inches from a free shot and again from 12 metres out in the 24th minute the big striker was unlucky when his header flew wide.

Preston's only other reply in the first half came five minutes before the break, when Robert Markovac swivelled past two defenders before unleashing a shot which Wilson did well to take at the second attempt.

Wollongong through Murray went further ahead when he headed in his second goal just before halftime.

In the second half, Preston looked dejected and with Spink being replaced by George Pe-

trov at halftime the visitors had to regroup to counteract Wollongong's pattern of play.

In fact, it was Petrov in the 85th minute who hit a good shot from 20 metres out that forced Wilson to push the ball around the post for a corner.

Wollongong almost increased their lead in the 62nd minute when Adam Sandy was brought down on the edge of the penalty area, however Phil Traianedes, Preston's reliable custodian saved from Nastevski's free kick.

Preston began to push forward more and more and were rewarded with

a goal in the 75th minute.

Andrew Zinni was brought down in the penalty area by Darren Wilson and the spot kick taken by Markovac was put away into the corner of the goal.

In the last 10 minutes Preston tried to equalise but Wollongong's defence held firm.

Zeljko Jurin for Wollongong was shown the red card by referee Peter Spiers in the 88th minute for retaliation after receiving a yellow card only three minutes earlier.

This win helps Wollongong's relegation problem but Preston's

chances of making the play-offs have received a severe dent.

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: P Wilson 6, Cavanah 6, Dimov 7, D Wilson 6 (Pontidas 84), Cabassi 7, Kay 6, Sandy 6, Nastevski 7, Jurin 5, Naumov 6, Murray 8.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Traianedes 6, Roodhouse 6, Jolevski 5 (Crino 62), Jackson 5, Parton 5, Spasevski 6, Zinni 6, Trajanovski 5, Spink 5 (Petrov 45 5), Tasevski 7, Markovac 7.

SCORERS: Murray 2m, 44m (WM); Markovac 75m (PM).

YELLOW CARDS: Nastevski 49m, Jurin 85m (WM); Jackson 86m (PM).

RED CARD: Jurin 88m (WM).

REFEREE: P. Spiers 6.

CROWD: 5,217.

Wolves hold Adcity with brilliant Skeen goal

BY ALAN CLARK

A classic goal from midfielder David Skeen earned Wollongong City a merited 1-1 draw against Adelaide City on Sunday at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Skeen fired in a brilliant 25 metre drive in 56 minutes, only seconds after teenage City striker Joe Barbaro had hit the post.

Wollongong, with every player committed in the very trying conditions, frustrated City and almost snatched a very late winner when Miladin Kuc had a shot cleared off the line by Tony Vidmar.

Socceroo goalkeeper Robert Zabica caught the eye with new fluorescent blue sox.

But it was striker Steve Maxwell who showed he was in the mood, with a great



DAVID SKEEN

header in just three minutes, that swept past the post.

Only three minutes later, big Maxie was in the action again with a 20 metre drive that was parried by Wollongong goalkeeper, Tony Pezzano.

Wollongong was very disciplined in defence and used the off-side trap with good effect.

Adcity jumped ahead in the 14th minute.

Aurelio Vidmar started the move with a good ball out wide to Robert Csoboth.

His cross was flicked on by young Joe Barbaro and Maxwell turned to hit home from 10 metres.

Players obviously felt the very hot and humid conditions and there was some slackness in passing from both sides.

Tony Vidmar, up in attack, forced a good save from Pezzano in the 22nd minute with a firm header.

Socceroo Alex Tobin strooped a fine Wollongong effort in the 28th minute, when he headed off the line from a good Cellini header.

A brilliant run from Ivanovic in combination with Tony Vidmar and Maxwell set up Barbaro, but he blazed over two minutes later.

Some wing trickery by Paul Farmer in the 33rd minute set up a chance for a Pat Brodnik, but Zabica saved at his near post.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 6, Shillabeer 6, T Vidmar 5, Ivanovic 6, Tobin 6, Melta 5, Csoboth 7, Veart 6 (Aloisi 71), Barbaro 6, Maxwell 6, A Vidmar 7.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Pezzano 6, Green 6, Hollifield 7, Morlando 7, Yankos 6, Cahut 6, Cellini 6 (Lloyd 45 6), Skeen 6, Farmer 6, Brodnik 6 (McEvoy 86), Koch 6.

SCORERS: Maxwell 14m (AC), Skeen 56m (WC).

YELLOW CARDS: Hollifield 55m, Yankos 73m, Lloyd 83m, Pezzano 89m.

REFEREE: John Santa Isabel 6.

CROWD: 3,700.

Ref's mistake sinks Bergers

BY GREG BLAKE



Melbourne Croatia scorer Ivan Kelic.

MELBOURNE Croatia retained league leadership almost by default as it downed courageous Heidelberg 1-0 at Somers Street yesterday.

A spectacular goal from Ivan Kelic, his 11th for the season, just seconds after half time settled the issue.

However, this match will always be remembered for the goal that never was.

It came from a scorching first half effort from Heidelberg's Terry Rizopoulos.

It bounced clearly two metres inside the Croatia goal line but was not allowed by match referee Richard Lorenc.

Heidelberg, who had more than matched it with the league leaders for the opening half hour, clearly should have taken in a half time lead with the effort which was — unfortunately for them — denied.

Rizopoulos unleashed a booming right footer from 18 metres, which struck the crossbar and, with a vicious backspin, landed inside the net and then bounce clear.

Lorenc looked immediately to linesman Michael Benovic, who shrugged his shoulders and seemed unsure of the decision.

Lorenc immediately responded by calling play to continue, despite protests from Heidelberg players in and around the penalty area.

Even the most avid Melbourne Croatia supporters acknowledged the goal.

However, for coach Len McKendry's much maligned side the appeals were to no avail.

The setback appeared to have a dramatic effect on a pumped up Heidelberg, and after half-time it seemed to lose the script in the oppressive 35-degree heat.

Melbourne Croatia, with Mark Talajic playing a blinder and setting up a number of dangerous moments

with searching runs out of defence, went ahead less than 60 seconds after the interval.

A neat long ball by Paul Donnelly played Ivan Kelic clear.

His first-time shot was parried by Heidelberg keeper Jeff Olver but the Croatia striker showed lightning reflexes to check his run and latch onto the rebound, before crashing his shot into an empty net.

Croatia, with dangerous forward Kelic obviously motivated by the goal, continued to pressure a Heidelberg side which struggled to match its first half tempo.

Croatia's best second half chances fell to substitute Mark Silic, who had one spectacular header stopped by Olver and then a booming shot from 20 metres went sizzling centimetres over the crossbar.

Understandly, the Heidelberg camp was outraged by the disallowed goal.

Angry coach Len McKendry was scathing in his criticism.

"Players make mistakes and get booked," said McKendry.

"When referees make mistakes we have to wear it.

"It's so frustrating to score a quality goal and then have it disallowed under these circumstances.

"It was even more frustrating to concede that goal so early in the second half."

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller 6, Davidson 6, Talajic 8, Selemides 6, Marth 6, Donnelly 7, Milosevic 4 (Silic 45, 6), Biskic 8, Caleta 7, Kelic 7, White 5.

HEIDELBERG: Olver 6, Bordignon 6, Ousalkas 7, McDowall 6, Kinnell 5, Scott 6, Brattan 7, Herd 6, Stevenson 5, Goutzoulis 5, Slifkas 5, Rizopoulos (Stubbins 34m, 6).

SCORER: Kelic 46 min.(MC).

YELLOW CARDS: Milosevic 10, Marth 24, (MC); Slifkas 80, Brattan 69 (H).

REFEREE: R. Lorenc 4.

CROWD: app 4,500.

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Wednesday and Friday at 6.30pm.

ALL PLAYERS WELCOME

Olympic and Marconi in magnificent draw

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY Olympic and Marconi played a magnificent action packed 1-1 draw at the St George Stadium last night in easily the best match at this venue this season, which left the crowd of 6,038 screaming for more.

Although the first half was dominated by the NSL champions, Marconi bounced back strongly in the second session with some delightful attacking football.

Olympic could have considered themselves a trifle unlucky not to have grabbed maximum points.

But Marconi's massive goalkeeper Bobby Catlin was absolutely outstanding and deter-



Olympic's veteran goalkeeper Gary Meier keeps getting better with advancing years. He was again up to the task yesterday — STEVE GOSCH pic.



Jean-Paul de Marigny in control yesterday. On this display he may yet regain Soccerroo selection — STEVE GOSCH photo.

on the proceedings, ironically saw Marconi go in at the break leading by one goal.

Sustained pressure on Marconi by Olympic was repeatedly neutralised by the magnificent performance of their giant goalkeeper, Bobby Catlin.

Catlin reeled off successive blocks from Edwards (twice), Ironside (twice) and was a tower of strength for the visitors.

Marconi hit the lead in the 33rd minute when ball playing midfielder Peter Katholos launched a red-hot rocketing 25 metre drive that Meier failed to hold cleanly.

John Markovski zip-ped in from the blind

scoring three minutes after coming on, said: "I was rewarded by scoring the goal after battling to restore my fitness. It was a wonderful feeling."

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier 7, Barrett 7, Spiridakos 7, Bernal 8, Hooker 7, Lee 7, Phillips 7, Ironside 7, Refenes 6 (Perinovic 63), Saad 8, Edwards 7.

MARCONI: Catlin 8, Jones 7, Okon 7, Calderan 7, de Marigny 8, Gray 7, McCulloch 7, Katholos 7, Markovski 7, Seal 7, Corica 6 (Georgakis 81).

SCORERS: Perinovic 66 (SO); Markovski 33 (M).

YELLOW CARDS: Bernal 26, Hooker 28 (SO), de Marigny 26, Gray 70 (M).

REFEREE: John McConnell 6.

CROWD: 6038.



David Barrett takes a tumble under the watchful eye of Marconi's Steve Corica — Photo by STEVE GOSCH.

side to belt the rebound hard and high into the empty net.

Four minutes from half time, Marconi should have increased their lead when referee John McConnell awarded them a penalty for a foul by Olympic sweeper Tony Spyridakos on Katholos.

But striker David Seal, although sending Meier diving to the right, flashed his spot kick just wide of the left post.

Besides Catlin, left defender Jean-Paul de Marigny, Ian Gray and Paul Okon were magnificent for Marconi, whilst for Olympic striker Abbas Saad was nothing short of magnificent, not only because of his attacking prowess but also the enormous defensive work he got through.

Soccerroo stopper Andrew Bernal, Edwards and David Barrett caught the eye.

Perinovic, making his first appearance in the NSL this season and

Perinovic, who scored the equaliser just three minutes after coming on as substitute for Steve Refenes in the 63rd minute.

Following a free kick by Alistair Edwards, the ever alert Robbie Ironside saw Perinovic on the far post and he headed on to the striker, who crashed his powerful header into the far corner.

Olympic should have scored earlier through an Ironside header that grazed the far post in the 55th minute.

Six minutes later, Edwards just failed to connect with a header from point blank range.

But the ultimate miss of the entire match came in the 73rd minute, when a magnificently measured flat ball from Ironside to Edwards saw the latter shave the base of the far post with rocketing low drive from 14 metres.

Ten minutes from full time, teenage goal scoring sensation David Seal streaked away from the entire Olympic defence and looked like scoring, but veteran goalkeeper Gary Meier made retribution for his first half mistake with a deflection off his knee.

Olympic in the first session, despite having an almost stranglehold

in the offing with a transfer to Italy.

"Eddie Thomson approached me on the promotional offer and I'm grateful," he said.

"However, it must take second place to my future here in Europe."

Frank Farina has worked hard to reach the top echelon on the European scene.

And even if it means missing the game against England, all fair minded Australian sportfans will be with him every inch of the way, in his latest move to secure his overseas future.

mined to deny victory to the home side.

However, in all honesty, Marconi was severely handicapped by the late withdrawal of intelligent striker David Lowe, who pulled out with a corked thigh muscle.

Olympic's hero was tenacious striker Marko

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that he and his long time girlfriend Julie will be married in Cairns on June 29.

This has also ruled out any hopes coach Thomson had of Farina playing in the President's Cup tournament in Korea.

In a concentrated bid to lure Farina here for the England game, the ASF want him to promote their new playing gear.

But although Frank is happy about the offer, it is chickenfeed compared with what looks to be

PLAYER AWARDS

Olympic v Marconi

- 3 Catlin (M)
- 2 Saad (O)
- 1 Bernal (O)

Adelaide City v W'gong City

- 3 Csoboth (AC)
- 2 Hollifield (WC)
- 1 Morlando (WC)

W'gong Maced v Preston

- 3 Murray (WM)
- 2 Tasevski (PM)
- 1 Dimov (WM)

Parra Melita v St George

- 3 Soper (PM)
- 2 El-Ali (StG)
- 1 Harper (StG)

SM Hellas v Apia

- 3 Palatsides (SM)
- 2 Blagojevic (A)
- 1 Durakovic (SM)

Sydney Croatia v Sunshine

- 3 C Foster (SGC)
- 2 Hunter (SGC)
- 1 Kindtner (SGC)

Melb Croatia v Heidelberg

- 3 Talajic (MC)
- 2 Caleta (MC)
- 1 Brattan (H)

PLAYER POINTS

- 19: Petkovic (SC)
- 17: Filan (StG)
- 16: P. Okon (Mar), Biskic (MC), Kupresak (SC), Phillips (SO)
- 14: Ivanovic (AC), Bundalo (AP), Stewart (AP), Stubbins (Heid), Kuc (WC)
- 13: Clarkson (SGC)
- 12: Tsolakis (SM)
- 11: T. Vidmar (AC), Lowe (M), McCulloch (M), Soper (ME), C Foster (SGC)
- 10: Blajagovic (AL), McDowall (H), Katholos (Mar), Jackson (PM), Petersen (SM), Kindtner (SGC), Krslovic (SC), Franken (SC), Saad (SO).

NEXT WEEK

SPECIAL VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW

Plus outstanding Victorian features from Greg Blake Don't miss them!

PLAYERS WANTED

LEMNOS ALLSTARS SOCCER CLUB

Lemnos Allstars want to win the NSW State League Division 3 competition in the 1991 Season.

To ensure promotion, we now seek the services of players with a professional attitude, or seek to learn it.

Trials will be staged every Tuesday and Thursday, at 6.15pm.

Interested players are invited to contact coach and former Soccerroo John Doyle at the trials to be held at:

Bark-Hut Reserve
Elliott Street, Belfield

Youth League players are also invited to these trials.

COACH WANTED

Olympia S.B.T. Soccer Club playing in the Tasmanian Division 1 League, now seeks applications for

A COACH OR PLAYER-COACH

Please forward written applications stating experience and qualifications to:

The Secretary,
Olympia S.B.T. Soccer Club
GPO Box 87
North Hobart
TASMANIA. 7001

Applications close March 31, 1991



Palatsides silences critics

BY JOHN MANGAN

JOE Palatsides staked his claim to a regular spot in the South Melbourne Hellas team as he led them to a 2-1 victory over Apia at Middle Park on Sunday.

He owed his place in the team to a devastating stream of injuries which has sidelined Mike Petersen, Paul Trimboli and Kim Taliadoros.

But Palatsides silenced his critics, scoring South Melbourne's first goal and earning the penalty that led to the team's second.

The result was a satisfying tribute for Hellas defender Steve Blair who celebrated his 301st NSL appearance.

But the home team's performance gave fans little to cheer, with key players like Paul Wade and Peter Tzolakis firing at less than 100 percent.

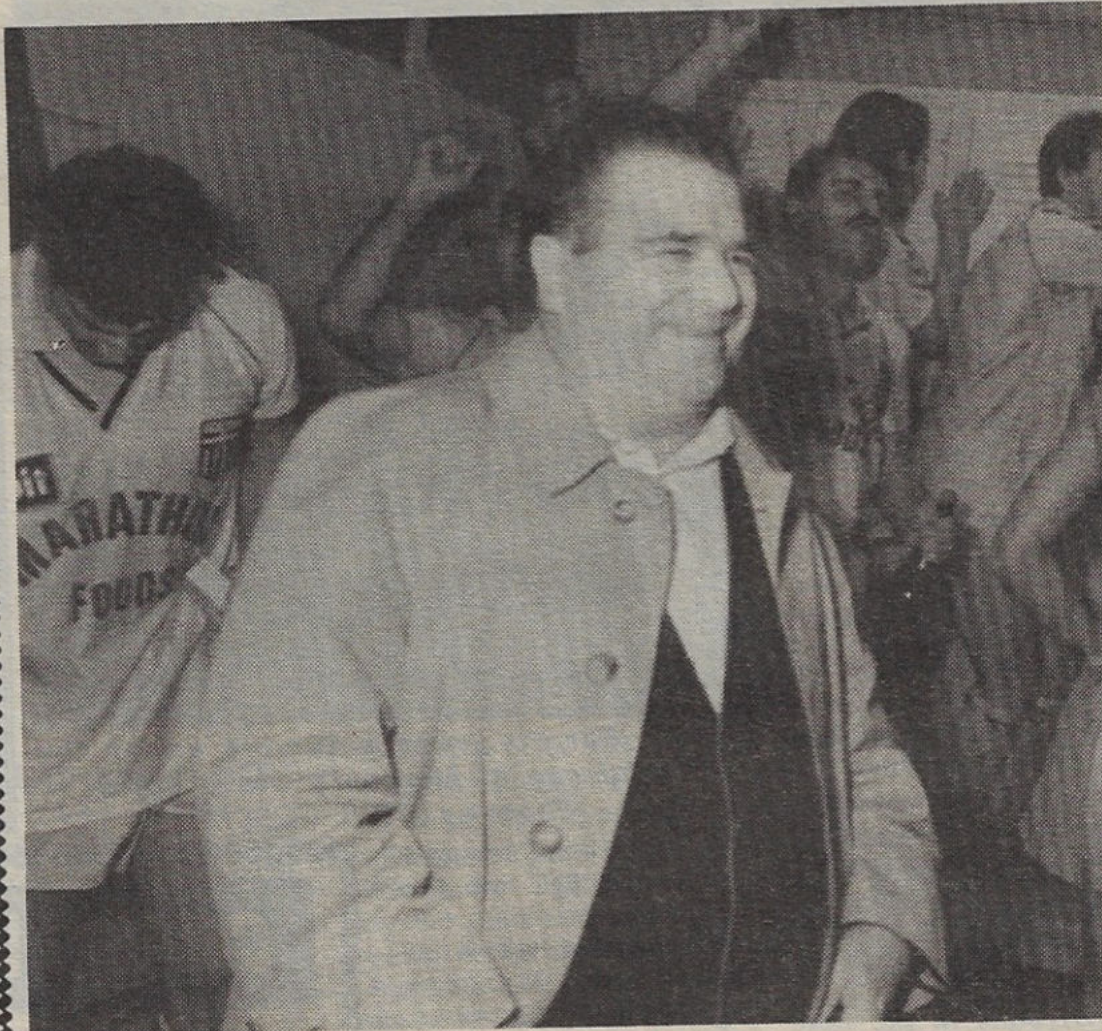
Meanwhile, Apia's Alex Bundalo and Milan Blagojevic piled on the pressure for the visitors.

"We deserved a draw today, but once again our finishing let us down," said Apia boss Manfred Schaefer after the game.

"We let them off the hook in the last 10



TOP — Peter Tzolakis, replaced by Paul Fernandes in the 81st minute.
BELOW — A happy South Melbourne coach Ferenc Puskas in the Middle Park dressing room — JOE MONTEMURRO photo.



Argentine tourists

A youth team from Buenos Aires in Argentina, Gimnasia y Esgrima has been playing matches on its current Australia tour.

Results so far are v Parramatta Melita Youth 1-1, v Australian Institute of Sport 0-6 and v Canberra Youth 1-3.

Aerolineas Argentinas and Sydney travel bureau, Gulliver's Sports Travel have been involved with the tour.

AVALA SPORTS CLUB

PLAYERS WANTED

The above club seeks players for their Under 13s Youth League squad.

Trainings every Monday & Thursday at

Bonnyrigg High School

Cabramatta Rd, BONNYRIGG.
6PM

Further information please call

Tom 76 5295

Aldo 745 2873 (AH)

ALSO REQUIRED:

Goalkeeper for under 14s.

minutes."

Hellas' opening goal came in the 35th minute when Mehmet Durakovic found Palatsides free in the box.

Palatsides steadied, turned his defender and slammed the ball low past goalkeeper Brett Hughes.

Apia replied in the 75th minute when Angie Postecoglou brought down midfielder Shane Clinch in the box.

Bundalo converted from the spot.

But 14 minutes later, Palatsides weaved his way into the Apia penalty area only to be brought down by Graham Jennings.

Wade converted from the spot, to notch up his fourth NSL goal of the season.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: Maclaren 7, Wright 6, Postecoglou 6, Durakovic 7, Blair 6, Wade 6, Michalakopoulos 6, Tasios 5, Palatsides 8, Boutsianis 6 (Trimboli 73), Tzolakis 6 (Fernandes 81).

APIA LEICHHARDT: Hughes 6, Blagojevic 7, Jennings 6, Stewart 6, M. Brown 6, Clinch 6, McQuarrie 6, Miranda 6, McFadden 6, Bundalo 7, Maloney 5 (R. Brown 63).

SCORERS: Palatsides 35m, P Wade 84m (pen) (SMH); Bundalo 70m (pen) (AL).

REFEREE: Chris Bambridge 7.

CROWD: abt 3,500.

SEND your stories and photographs to AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY. Team and action photos will be welcomed.

Address all material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

Vrzina returns to Sydney in triumph

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

FORMER Sydney Croatia coach Tony Vrzina could not have wished for a better return to Sydney Croatia's Edensor Park as he watched in disbelief while his bottom of the table Sunshine George Cross handed out a 5-0 thrashing to the club which recently dismissed him.

Striker Derek Hunter led the way with a clinically taken hat-trick to give Sunshine their first win in eight matches and produce a faint glimmer of hope for them to get out of the relegation zone.

This result also means the end of any ambitions Croatia may have entertained of snatching a semi-final place and to be quite honest on this performance they certainly don't deserve to.

Despite the loss through injury and suspension of experienced central defenders Chris Ketsakidis and John Waddell, Sunshine shocked the predominantly Croatian crowd with two goals in the first quarter of an hour which set up a commanding and totally unexpected lead.

The first came in the 10th minute when Croatia gave away a rather needless corner kick which was eventually smashed high into the net by Hunter after two earlier attempts were scrambled off the line.

Six minutes later it was a curling cross whipped in from the right by David Clarkson which did the damage.

Croatia defender Paul Carter appeared to have it well covered before slipping, leaving striker Gary Hasler with all the time in the world to pick his spot and beat keeper Tony Franken with a right foot shot from close range.

In fact, Sunshine were unlucky not to have had an even firmer stranglehold on the game when Hunter clipped the crossbar with a good volley from 15 metres in between those two goals.

The visitors were well in command, playing some quite attractive football which

was causing numerous headaches to a Croatia defence clearly missing the authority of the suspended Velimir Kupsak.

Even when they were further depleted with an injury to Soccerro hopeful Hasler eight minutes after the interval, Sunshine remained well in command.

Midfielders Craig Foster and Lorenz Kindtner were running the show, creating numerous opportunities to increase the lead.

Croatia on the other hand were never in the game. Apart from a first half free kick from Tony Krslovic and a snap shot on the turn from Clayton Koch late in the second half, they never looked like getting on the scoreboard.

Sunshine defender Damian Mori clinched the points in the 82nd minute when he unleashed a powerful drive which Franken half

stopped but was unable to keep out.

Hunter then completed his hat-trick and put the icing on the cake for Sunshine with two goals in the last five minutes.

He finished off an Andy Humble cross in the 85th minute for the fourth, and ran half the length of the field seconds before the end to glide past Franken and easily slot home to bring up the quite amazing 5-0 final scoreline.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Keogh 6, Mori 6, Roodhouse 6, Alevisos 6, Koliba 6, Foster 8, Amicis 6, Hunter 8, Kindtner 7, Clarkson 6, Halter 6 (Humble 53m).

SCORERS: D Hunter 10m, 85m, 89, Hasler 16m, Mori 82m (SGC).

YELLOW CARDS: Hunter 8m, Alevisos 55 (SGC).

REFEREE: M. Ingham 5.

CROWD: 1,876.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Craig Johnston and Ian Holmes should pair up exceptionally well.

Johnston is a boy from the backblocks on the shores of Lake Macquarie, near Newcastle, who left Australia at the age of 15 to find fame and fortune ultimately with Liverpool.

He will be deeply involved in the UNICEF World Summit for Children in September.

In addition, he will be in the promotion team for the FIFA/UNICEF match featuring World Cup holders Germany and a World XI.

Holmes began playing soccer with Canterbury Police Boys Club as a six year old, and by the age of 19 he had won appointment as president of the huge Canterbury and Districts Soccer Football Association.

After serving as NSW Amateur Soccer Federation senior vice-president in 1981, he took over as president the following year when Doug

McCarron from Orange retired.

After missing at first attempt, he joined the NSW Soccer Federation board in 1983.

In June 1987 he was appointed NSW Soccer Federation general manager, serving under presidents John Constantine and Peter Thorne.

He believes the current NSW organization is strong, and has the backing of a capable board.

Mr Holmes is one of the breed who would sweep the necessary failure of the 1990 NSW Soccer League under carpet.

But he added: "I have returned to Strategic Development Plan, and this year's First Second Divisions will be strong competitors, and very well supported."

Wife Vicki is sister of former Soccerro defender assistant Australia Institute of Sport coach, Steve O'Connor.

Holmes and family live in an Sydney south suburb.

SOCCER POOLS



THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 292
SAT. 2nd MARCH, 1991

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	COVENTRY	CRYSTAL P.	1
	DERBY	SUNDERLAND	2
	LUTON	NOTTINGHAM F.	3
	Q.P.R.	MAN. CITY	4
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	SHEFF. UTD.	ASTON VILLA	5
	SOUTHAMPTON	LEEDS	6
	WIMBLEDON	NORWICH	7
	BARNLEY	WATFORD	8
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BLACKBURN	SWINDON	9
	BRIGHTON	OLDHAM	10
	BRISTOL R.	MILLWALL	11
	CHARLTON	BRISTOL C.	12
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	HULL	MIDDLESBRO	13
	IPSWICH	WOLVES	14
	NEWCASTLE	LEICESTER	15
	NOTTS C.	SHEFF. WED.	16
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	OXFORD UTD.	PORTSMOUTH	17
	PLYMOUTH	PORT VALE	18
	WEST BROM.	WEST HAM	19
	BIRMINGHAM	SWANSEA	20
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	BOURNEMOUTH	CHESTER	21
	BURY	WIGAN A.	22
	FULHAM	READING	23
	MANSFIELD	GRIMSBY	24
ENGLISH DIVISION 7	SHREWSBURY	PRESTON	25
	STOKE	EXETER	26
	ALDERSHOT	DONCASTER	27
	BLACKPOOL	HEREFORD	28
ENGLISH DIVISION 8	CARLISLE	WREXHAM	29
	DARLINGTON	STOCKPORT	30
	GILLINGHAM	CHESTERFIELD	31
	HALIFAX	WALSALL	32
ENGLISH DIVISION 9	HARTLEPOOL	TORQUAY	33
	PETERBORO	MAIDSTONE	34
	ROCHDALE	NORTHAMPTON	35
	SCARBORO	LINCOLN	36
ENGLISH DIVISION 10	SCUNTHORPE	YORK	37
	BASINGSTOKE	HARROW	38
SCOT. PREMIER DIVISION	BOGNOR R.	MARLOW	39
	CARSHALTON	HAYES	40
	DAGENHAM	BISHOPS S.	41
	ABERDEEN	RANGERS	42
SCOT. DIVISION 1	CELTIC	S. JOHNSTONE	43
	DUNDEE U.	DUNFERMLINE	44
	HIBERNIAN	ST. MIRREN	45
	MOTHERWELL	HEARTS	46
SCOT. DIVISION 2	AIRDRIE	DUNDEE	47
	AYR	RAITH	48
	BRECHIN	HAMILTON	49
	FALKIRK	CLYDE	50
SCOT. DIVISION 3	MEADOWBANK	KILMARNOCK	51
	MORTON	CLYDEBANK	52
	PARTICK	FORFAR	53
	ALLOA	MONTROSE	54
SCOT. DIVISION 4	ARBROATH	STIRLING A.	55
	VAUXHALL LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION		

★ Winning match numbers and supplementary number.

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 00555 0787 Australia Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.

Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

Get your Pools in!

It takes only six numbers to win.

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 291
SAT. 23rd FEBRUARY, 1991

ENGLISH DIV. 1	ARSENAL	CRYSTAL P.	1	4-0
	EVERTON	SHEFF. UTD.	2	1-2
	LUTON	LIVERPOOL	3	3-1
	BRISTOL C.	OXFORD UTD.	4	3-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	CHARLTON	MIDDLESBRO	5	0-1
	IPSWICH	HULL	6	2-0
	LEICESTER	BARNLEY	7	2-1
	NEWCASTLE	WOLVES	8	0-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	PLYMOUTH	BRIGHTON	9	2-0
	PORTSMOUTH	SWINDON	10	2-1
	PORT VALE	BRISTOL R.	11	3-2
	WATFORD	OLDHAM	12	1-1★
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	WEST BROM.	NOTTS C.	13	2-2★
	BIRMINGHAM	CHESTER	14	1-0
	BURY	BRENTFORD	15	1-1★
	CAMB'GE. UTD.	HUDDERSFIELD	16	0-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	EXETER	LEYTON O.	17	2-0
	FULHAM	SOUTHEND	18	0-3
	GRIMSBY	TRANMERE	19	0-1
	PRESTON	BRADFORD C.	20	0-3
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	READING	BOLTON	21	0-1
	ROTHERHAM	BOURNEMOUTH	22	1-1★
	SWANSEA	MANSFIELD	23	1-2
	WIGAN A.	STOKE	24	4-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 7	ALDERSHOT	BLACKPOOL	25	1-4
	BURNLEY	WALSALL	26	2-0
	CHESTERFIELD	CARDIFF	27	0-0
	HARTLEPOOL	DARLINGTON	28	0-0★
ENGLISH DIVISION 8	HEREFORD	MAIDSTONE	29	4-0
	LINCOLN	STOCKPORT	30	0-3
	ROCHDALE	SCUNTHORPE	31	2-1
	WREXHAM	NORTHAMPTON	32	0-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 9	YORK	CARLISLE	33	2-0
	BANGOR	BUXTON	34	0-2
	GAINSBORO	MOSSLEY	35	4-2
	SHEPshed	S. LIVERPOOL	36	1-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 10	NETHERFIELD	HARROGATE	37	1-1★
	NEWTON	EASTWOOD	38	0-0★



THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 18/2/91 — WEEK 290

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED										NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
33	36	43	23	35	53	38	55			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
48	63	57	63	50	59	60	54			2	10	3	13	18	1	1	16		
59	50	42	60	56	57	58	55			0	2	0	0	2	8	1	2		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32			25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32		
54	60	57	70	69	80	61	59			1	2	5	2	0	3	3	2		
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40			33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
61	72	63	75	59	60					1	1	14	5	0	9				

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF WEEK 291 SAT 23 FEBRUARY, 1991

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):
12, 13, 15, 22, 37, 38.
Supplementary Number: 28.

English division one			English division one								
Arsenal	4	Crystal Palace	0	Arsenal	25	16	8	1	47	12	54
Coventry	0	Sunderland	0	Liverpool	25	16	6	3	47	22	54
Derby	0	Norwich	0	Crystal Palace	26	14	7	5	34	27	54
Everton	1	Sheffield United	2	Leeds	24	12	7	5	28	28	43
Luton	3	Liverpool	1	Manchester United	24	11	8	5	37	25	40
Nottingham Forest	2	Aston Villa	2	Wimbledon	26	10	9	7	41	34	39
Queen's Park Rangers	2	Southampton	1	Tottenham	25	10	6	7	32	32	38
Wimbledon	5	Tottenham	1	Manchester City	24	10	6	6	36	32	38
English division two			English division two								
Bristol City	3	Oxford	1	Aston Villa	24	10	6	10	39	43	36
Charlton	0	Middlesbrough	1	Southampton	25	10	3	12	32	43	32
Ipwich	2	Hull	0	Luton	25	7	5	16	41	26	47
Plymouth	2	Brighton	0	Coventry	25	7	5	13	30	31	30
Port Vale	3	Bristol Rovers	2	Everton	26	8	6	12	30	31	30
Portsmouth	2	Swindon	1	Aston Villa	24	6	10	8	26	26	28
Watford	1	Oldham	1	Southampton	25	7	5	16	41	26	47
West Bromwich	2	Notts County	2	Luton	25	7	5	13	30	31	30
Postponed: Sheffield Wednesday v Blackburn			Postponed: Sheffield Wednesday v Blackburn								
Playing Sunday: West Ham v Millwall			Playing Sunday: West Ham v Millwall								
Scottish Premier division			Scottish Premier division								
Dunfermline	3	Hearts	1	Hillwall	28	12	8	8	44	32	43
Scottish FA Cup third round:			Scottish FA Cup third round:								
Ross County	1	Meadowbank	6	Bristol City	29	13	4	12	42	43	42
(Meadowbank away to Morton in fourth round)			(Meadowbank away to Morton in fourth round)								
English division three			English division three								
Birmingham	1	Chester	0	Wolverhampton	29	10	13	6	42	33	43
Bury	1	Brentford	0	Bristol Rovers	29	10	9	10	40	38	39
Cambridge	0	Huddersfield	1	Swindon	30	9	11	10	42	42	42
Exeter	2	Leyton Orient	0	Ipwich	29	9	11	9	37	43	43
Fulham	0	Southend	1	Newcastle	28	9	10	9	30	31	31
Grimsby	0	Tranmere	1	Barnsley	27	9	9	9	36	30	30
Preston	0	Bradford	1	Port Vale	25	10	6	13	39	44	44
Reading	1	Bournemouth	1	West Bromwich	30	8	10	12	38	41	41
Rotherham	1	Mansfield	2	Leicester	29	9	6	14	39	58	58
Swansea	1			Charlton	30	7	11	12	38	43	43
English division four			English division four								
Aldershot	1	Blackpool	4	Oxford	29	7	11	11	49	56	56
Burnley	2	Walsall	0	Portsmouth	30	8	8	14	39	51	51
Chesterfield	0	Cardiff	0	Plymouth	30	7	11	12	34	47	47
Hartlepool	0	Darlington	0	Blackburn	30	8	6	16	30	42	42
Hereford	4	Maidstone	0	Watford	30	5	11	14	26	41	41
Lincoln	0	Stockport	3	Hull	30	6	7	17	44	41	41
Rochdale	2	Scunthorpe	3	English division three							
Wrexham	0	Northampton	2	Southend	29	16	4	7	48	34	58
York	2	Carlisle	0	Bolton	30	16	8	6	40	29	56
Played Friday:			Played Friday:								
Doncaster	0	Peterborough	2	Grimsby	30	16	6	8	45	25	54
Gillingham	1			Cambridge	26	13	8	5	44	29	47
Postponed: Torquay v Scarborough			Postponed: Torquay v Scarborough								
Scottish division one			Scottish division one								
Forfar	1	Clyde	3	Tranmere	29	13	8	8	44	34	47
Partick	0	Raith	3	Bury	30	13	8	9	43	38	47
Scottish division two			Scottish division two								
Albion	3	East Fife	1	Brentford	29	12	10	7	37	29	45
Arbroath	0	Berwick	1	Birmingham	31	12	8	31	34	39	45
East Stirling	1	Alloa	6	Huddersfield	30	12	8	10	32	42	43
Queen of the South	1	Stranraer	2	Bradford	29	12	7	10	38	32	44
Stenhousemuir	0	Montrose	1	Reading	27	13	4	10	40	35	43
Stirling	0	Queen's Park	0	Leyton Orient	27	13	4	10	34	30	45
Postponed: Cowdenbeath v Dumbarton			Postponed: Cowdenbeath v Dumbarton								
Vauxhall League Premier division			Vauxhall League Premier division								
Grays	2	Kingstonian	1	Bournemouth	28	10	8	8	36	37	40
Harrow	2	Bishops Cleeve	1	Stoke	26	10	9	9	36	35	39
Staines	2	Basingstoke	1	Wigan	28	11	5	12	41	39	38
Division one			Division one								
Aveley	1	Bromley	1	Swansea	26	10	5	11	34	34	35
Chalfont	1	Southwick	0	Exeter	20	9	7	14	33	34	34
Dulwich	1	Heybridge	2	Chester	26	8	5	13	26	32	29
Uxbridge	1	Hitchin	0	Preston	29	7	7	15	30	40	28
Walton and Hersham	3	Lewes	1	Fulham	29	6	9	14	27	39	27
Loans League Premier division			Loans League Premier division								
Bangor	0	Buxton	2	Shrewsbury	27	5	8	14	35	45	23
Gainsborough	4	Mossley	2	Mansfield	28	5	8	15	25	39	23
Shepshed	1	South Liverpool	2	Graveley	27	5	7	15	50	22	22
Division one			Division one								
Netherfield	1	Harrogate	1	Rotherham	27	4	9	14	25	48	21
Newton	0	Eastwood	0								
Radcliffe	0	Farsley	0								
Warrington	1	Workop	2								
Whitley Bay	2	Congleton	2								
Workington	2	Accrington	2								
Homes League Premier division			Homes League Premier division								
Bromsgrove	2	Rushden	0								
Weymouth	1	Cambridge City	1								
Midland division			Midland division								
Alvechurch	3	Bilston	0								

NSW STATE LEAGUE LATEST

Canberra Metros eye Zelic

BY GRAHAM COOKE

SOCCEEROO Ned Zelic should be in Canberra Metros' colours in the coming NSW State League season, coach Tom Sermanni says.

Zelic, who achieved national prominence with some dazzling performances at the heart of Canberra's defence during the last NSW State League season, left the club for Sydney Croatia in September.

His continuing good form in the Quit National League earned him a Socceroo call-up for the recent series against Czechoslovakia.

Sermanni says Zelic is keen to return to Canberra, and Sydney is likely to release him on loan as soon as its QNSL program is over.

That could make the 19-year-old available for all but the opening weeks of the winter season.

And at present trying out for the Metros is a schoolboy international striker, Michael Musitano, from Albury, who first came to the club's notice when Sermanni coached the Australian Schoolboys on their recent tour of the Far East.

Meanwhile, time has run out for four 1990 Canberra players who have not been able to come to terms with the club.

Alan Reis, Peter Mazis, Andrew Young

CROWDS UP 13%

AT the conclusion of Round 20 of the NSL, total attendance for the 1990/91 season stood at 457,380 spectators.

This represents an increase of 13 percent on last season's crowds.

The average per game has jumped from 2,889 spectators to 3,267.

The total for 1989/90 — the inaugural summer season — was 529,961 spectators for the 26 regular season games.

If current crowds hold, the NSL should come very close to the 600,000 mark this season as the total for last season may be passed after Round 24.

For Round 21 attendance figures, see NSL tables, results scoreboard in this issue.

— LOU GAUTIER



NED ZELIC

and Ray Junna have not met a deadline and Sermanni says they will now be placed on the transfer list.

"I regret that we haven't been able to agree, but my first priority is getting a squad together without the disruptions of continuing contract

negotiations," he said.

"The club is projecting a more professional image and that does not involve disputes over contracts with two days to go before the season begins. I can now concentrate on finding replacements from players outside the club."

Grbevski, Franken both strike form

BY KEITH GILMOUR

MIKE Grbevski is aiming to play a decisive role in Sydney Croatia's belated bid to reach the National Soccer League top five.

Grbevski's blistering pace was a distinct feature in the club's sudden return to form which was secured with Grbevski and Clayton Koch as the strikers.

"I feel comfortable playing at the front and hope to win regular selection, but I don't miss not being in my old position in the defence," Grbevski says.

"Previously I had specific marking instructions, but now I can devote my energy to wreaking as much havoc as possible."

Both Grbevski and outstanding goalkeeper Tony Franken said the going would be tough to make the five.

They said the arrival of Steve Watson as act-

ing coach had resulted in new squad spirit.

Franken, in superb touch at present, has a point to prove in coming matches.

"I am very happy with my form, but disappointed I didn't make the Socceroo squad," he said.



TONY FRANKEN

"I've been overlooked before, and aim to prove that I am worth my place."

CROWDS AT INTERNATIONAL MATCHES IN AUSTRALIA FROM 1986 TO FEB '91

THE Socceros have played 29 matches on home soil since the November 1985 0-0 World Cup play-off draw with Scotland in Melbourne.

The following chart shows how the national team has fared at the gate in that period.

AUST	v CZECH	(MELB)	1-1	6,000
AUST	v CZECH	(ADEL)	0-1	6,000
AUST	v CZECH	(SYD)	0-3	10,000
AUST	v NZ	(SYD)	2-1	4,500 (C)*
AUST	v EVERTON	(MELB)	1-1	17,000
AUST	v NZ	(MELB)	1-1	3,000 (C)
AUST	v GOTEBOG	(SYD)	0-1	10,250
AUST	v DIN.ZAGREB	(MELB)	1-1	6,000
AUST	v DIN.ZAGREB	(SYD)	3-1	8,495
AUST	v CH. TAIPEI	(CANB)	3-0	2,500 (C)
AUST	v ISRAEL	(MELB)	2-0	11,000 (C)
AUST	v CH. TAIPEI	(ADEL)	3-2	7,000 (C)
AUST	v NZ	(SYD)	3-1	10,498 (C)
AUST	v BRAZIL	(MEL)	0-1	13,000 (C)
AUST	v SAUDI ARABIA	(SYD)	3-0	12,000 (C)
AUST	v ARGENTINA	(SYD)	4-1	18,900 (C)
AUST	v BRAZIL	(SYD)	0-2	28,152 (C)
AUST	v NZ	(BENDIGO)	2-0	3,000 (C)
AUST	v FIJI	(NEWC)	5-1	5,229 (C)
AUST	v MALMO	(MEL)	3-2	2,000
AUST	v MALMO	(SYD)	3-0	5,947
AUST	v NZ	(SYD)	4-1	13,621 (C)
AUST	v ISRAEL	(SYD)	1-1	43,000 (C)
AUST	v TORPEDO	(SYD)	0-2	7,400
AUST	v TORPEDO	(MEL)	3-0	3,000
AUST	v HAJDUK	(SYD)	1-0	10,000
AUST	v HAJDUK	(MEL)	2-2	6,000
AUST	v CZECH	(MEL)	0-1	6,854
AUST	v CZECH	(SYD)	0-2	8,221
TOTAL:				288,567



Action from the recent Australia vs Czechoslovakia match in Sydney. The Europeans not prove to be a good drawcard.

**MATCHES PLAYED: 29
AVERAGE PER MATCH: 9,950**

Average against national teams: (19) 11,458

Average against club teams: 7,610

Average Sydney: (14) 13,641

Average Melbourne: (10) 7,385

Average Adelaide: (2) 6,500

Average Country: (3) 3,576

Average competitive: (14) 12,528

Average friendlies: (15) 7,544

Average against Europe/Sth America: (18) 8,785

Average against others, inc. Israel: (11) 10,486

Average World Cup: (3) 20,616

Average Olympic: (4) 7,749

• (C) — competitive match: ie World Cup, Olympics.
• Figures in bracket represent number of matches.



— SOURCE: LES MURRAY, S

Pro refs for Italian League

THE Italian League will feature professional referees for the first time in the 1993-94 soccer season.

The decision, taken during the World Cup, was finally ratified by the federal council after a long and detailed study of the question.

The First and Second Division games will be run by professionals, who will have to undergo strict physical fitness checks, be subjected to weekly controls and who could earn from \$60,000 to \$120,000 a year depending on experience and efficiency.

Goalkeepers must not be restricted

"GOALKEEPERS are meandering, time-wasting nuisances and the main reason for the world-

wide trend of lower scoring, especially in the recent World Cup."

That's the opinion of new England boss Graham Taylor, who sees the goalkeeper's role — and not the widening of the goals — as the problem for FIFA.

Taylor believes the goalkeeper should stay where he belongs — in goal.

He would also make it an offence if he moves out of the area as he hates to see goalkeepers racing across the field like an extra defender and wandering up to the half-way line to take free kicks.

"The goalkeeper is

I would not restrict the goalkeepers' movements but I would restrict his time in possession of the ball à la indoor soccer (futsal rules) where the

goalkeeper can be in possession of the ball for five seconds only.

This would achieve Taylor's aim of speeding up the game and leave these forays by keepers on to the real playing field as a new dimension to the goal-keeping position.

OLYMPIC DETAILS

IN response to many questions re our Olympic team's path to the Barcelona Olympics, the situation is as follows:

Australia plays its Oceania qualifiers in Melbourne in May this year (see "Aussie Chrono" on this page).

If successful, they will meet either:

1) Should Israel win its European qualifying group (Israel is grouped with Greece, Sweden and Malta), Australia will meet Israel home and away, the winner going to Barcelona.

2) If Israel does not win its group, Australia will play the FIFTH European qualifier on a home-and-away basis.

There are eight groups in Europe.

The eight winners play a round-robin, the top four qualify for Barcelona, the fifth meets the Oceania winner.

While agreeing with Taylor's ultimate aim of speeding the game up and providing more action for the fans, I don't go along with restricting goalkeepers' movements.

Rene Higuita's extra curricular activities outside his area in the World Cup provided heaps of additional entertainment.

It was something new for the game, something unexpected.

JOHNNY WARREN HAS HIS SAY

Blagojevic in contention for Socceroo selection

APIA's Milan Blagojevic could be a surprise inclusion in Eddie Thomson's Socceroo line-up for the forthcoming two-match series against New Zealand in May.

Thomson revealed the possibility of young Blagojevic being given a chance against the Kiwis as he discussed his likely starting line-up for the heavy international commitments ahead with England here in June and the President's Cup in South Korea later the same month.

The two flank positions were obviously problem areas for Thommo in the recent Czechoslovakian matches.

Alan Davidson was not fully fit, while both Mehmet Durakovic and Ned Zelic, who shared the right sided role, are better suited to other positions.

Thomson, who rated Blagojevic "the best player on the field" when he saw the NSL Cup semi-final (Apia v Preston) in Melbourne recently, rates the talented Apia youngster an excellent chance of making his Socceroo debut against the Kiwis.

As for the left flank position, Panathinaikos' Chris Kalantzis is favoured by Thommo at this early stage.

Apart from Blagojevic and Kalantzis, Thomson hopes to uti-



MILAN BLAGOJEVIC

lise overseas, based stars Frank Farina, Graham Arnold, Vlado Bozinoski, Robbie Slater, and possibly Jason Polak in June.

There is doubt over Slater's availability due to possible promotion commitments with his French club, Lens, while Farina's availability will depend on transfer negotiations to either a French or Italian club.

Also on the positive side for Thomson is that Ernie Tapai should be fully recovered to resume his Socceroo career.

With Thommo expressing delight in the

progress of his mid-field trio of Wade, Milosevic and Aurelio Vidmar, goalkeeper Zabica and the defensive duo of Tobin and Bernal, the Socceroo line-up for the England match in Sydney could well be something like: Zabica, Bozinoski, Blagojevic, Bernal, Tobin, Kalantzis, Wade, Milosevic, Vidmar, Farina, Spink and Arnold.

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Universidad Catolica to tour Australia?

PRESTIGIOUS Chilean club Universidad Catolica wants to play three matches in Australia in late June of this year.

The wealthy Santiago-based club which played generous hosts to our under 17 Joeys team last November during their South American tour, have approached the Chilean Ambassador in Canberra, who in turn has spoken to the ASF about the possibility of "Catolica" playing in Australia.

Catolica, runners up in the recent Chilean First Division championship, would travel without two to three of their national team players who would be involved with the Copa America (the South American Championships) hosted by Chile from July 6-21.

However, Catolica would replace their international players with guests from Colo Colo, their traditional rivals.

National coach Eddie Thomson, who met Catolica VIPs during the Joeys' visit, is more than keen to play the pedigree South Americans.

Apart from providing first-class sparring partners for the Socceroos, it is a golden opportunity to strengthen relations with such a distinguished South American club.

BUSY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

IT's a busy time for Australia's various national teams in the coming months.

Fans would be well advised to enter these dates in their diaries:

- ★ March 6 and 9 World Youth (Under 20) qualifiers v Israel (Sydney Football Stadium)
- ★ May 12 Socceroos v New Zealand (Christchurch)
- ★ May 15 Socceroos v New Zealand (Brisbane)
- ★ May 19 Olympic qualifier v Papua New Guinea (Melbourne)
- ★ May 22 Olympic qualifier v New Zealand (Melbourne)
- ★ May 26 Olympic qualifier v Fiji (Melbourne)
- ★ June 1 Socceroos v England (Sydney Football Stadium)
- ★ June 9-18 Socceroos participate in President's Cup (South Korea)
- ★ End June Possibility Socceroos v Yugoslavia or Universidad Catolica (Chile) in Australia
- ★ June 14-30 World Youth Championships Portugal
- ★ August 16/Sept 1 World Under 17 Championships (Ecuador)

Stability needed in coaching field

FROM TONY ABATE

AS one of the prime importing countries of American culture we are all too familiar with the term 'the buck stops here'.

Perhaps our own NSL coaches are even more conscious of the term.

In soccer the coach is a unique species.

As the man with direct link to a club's administrators, players, and supporters, he is seen as the main protagonist of a team's fortunes.

In other words, as our American colleagues might say, the 'buck stops with him'.

Being a coach is a highly pressured task, yet one can equate the position to playing a roulette wheel.

The rewards of success are great, however the prospect of failure can be devastating to the individual.

Given this environment, indeed why would anyone want to be a coach?

The most basic reason may be power.

We are generally all born with the will to succeed.

The idea of controlling one's fellow man in a chess-like atmosphere may be most appealing to some.

There is no doubt that coaching is a suitable activity for those who like the constant pounding of their adrenalins.

Perhaps the most used reason for being a



JOHN FLEMING

coach is that the job provides the final progression to a full soccer education.

Many ex-players argue that playing and following soccer from a bystander's point of view can only provide a limited insight into the game.

Coaching is the final step in their eyes to a more complete knowledge of soccer.

This is indeed a valued point of view when one considers how many ex-players are coaching in Australia and around the world.

Focus

Apart from coaches wanting to be coaches, administrators, players

and supporters alike need them.

Coaches have such a multi-purpose function in soccer that the above people would find themselves lost without them.

In essence, coaches are a lever for the prosperity of administrators, players and, to a lesser extent, supporters.

It is through the coach that administrators hope a successful team will be built to provide high attendances, increased sponsorship money, and a positive image.

The eventual success of a coach will be delegated to administrators who will find praise in having appointed the 'right' man.

Players need a coach for direction.

He is the tactical 'guru' who directs their style of play, very much like a military commander.

He is also a source of comfort, springing to his players' defence on most occasions.

Even supporters need the coach.

As the man who directs their favourite players, he is the person whom people can direct their cheers and boos from the terraces.

He is an outlet for their happiness and frustration.

Having studied the philosophy behind coaches, have can we apply this information to our own NSL?

As we approach the twilight period of the home and away season, it seems on this occasion that practice does follow theory.

For John Fleming, Ante Grgic, Tony Vrzina, and Ernie Merrick the buck has certainly stopped for them.

After expecting purely positive results from these coaches the respective teams decided it was time for a change.

What did they expect a change would bring?

Would a new coach realise a new-found dimension in one of these teams' play?

Perhaps even a newly discovered spirit to lift them?

If past precedents are anything to gauge by, recently-appointed coaches do nothing of extra significance for their new clubs in the short term.

Earlier in the season, Fleming became the first coaching casualty when he was sacked by Wollongong Macedonia.

Several weeks and a few expensive signings later, Macedonia are still entrenched in the relegation zone.

Then there is the strange case of Melbourne Croatia, who parted with their coach whilst the club was in the top five.

Although Ken Worden has done a commendable job since taking over the helm at Croatia, should Grgic have been discarded?

After all, the club is still in the same position as before.

More recently Tony Vrzina and Ernie Merrick have been sacked by Sydney Croatia and Sunshine George Cross respectively.

What is the logic of replacing these men at such a crucial point of the season?

After assembling young squads in the off-season, both clubs must have been prepared to face a period of essentially just maintaining NSL survival.

The philosophy of being a coach certainly matches reality.

However, it must be changed.

Coaches should no longer be considered as soccer's sacrificial lambs.

Unlike what some administrators, players and supporters may think, the scope of a coach's influence on a club can only be limited.

Tactics, player preparation and team selection is where the 'buck' stops with coaches.

Administrators and players should realise they are equally responsible for results on the park.

Furthermore, coaches' contracts should be honoured, because soccer is not only a game but an art.

Only through short-term losses can experiments be made to bring about future results.

Perhaps it is a sign of the times, not only in soccer, that short term results are placed above more worthy long term gains.

ALBION Turk Gucu took the State League by storm last season, surprising the much more fancied clubs with their tenacity and determination to succeed.

It was only a mid-season lapse that prevented the club from securing a place in the top four and even challenging for championship honours.

With players such as Peter Kadlicek, Les Toth, Ayhan Patsaman and Andrew Fraund emerging as quality performers, backed up by experienced campaigners like Gordon Flavell, Don MacLeod, Tyrone James and Steve Douglas, Albion could match it with the best teams in the competition.

Despite such a good season, the club has parted company with coach Ian Wallace, who was replaced by former South Melbourne Hellas captain, Bobby Russell.

Despite the easy coaching transformation, the club was rocked by a decision that came totally out of the blue.

Russell, who had played with Mooroolbark last season, stepped down from the post within a matter of weeks after accepting the position, due to personal reasons which would not allow him to fulfil his obligations.

Fortunately for Albion, Terry Hennessey had surprisingly been axed by the new Juventus regime and his services were quickly snapped up.

Hennessey, renowned for his steady approach, would have felt hard done by from his old club, considering his performance of taking a struggling outfit from near bottom of the table when he was appointed in the position, to serious championship contenders.

So yet another challenge faces Hennessey.

Unlike previous jobs, he has the opportunity to improve on last season's display and harness the talent in hand, rather than stepping into the fire to save a club from slipping into the mire.

But the new Albion boss is not going to test on his laurels and concedes the season ahead will be a tough one.

He still has ambitions to strengthen the squad.

"There are positions at the club that I'm not entirely happy with that need to be rectified."

"We do not have much money to spend on players, so we must be very prudent and be careful with the players we do purchase."

"There will be a fair

BY DAVID BULLOCK



TERRY HENNESSEY

number of last season's squad retained, but I feel we have a couple of spots in the side that need to be strengthened", said Hennessey.

Hennessey also concedes Albion will be looked at more seriously this season after the success last year.

"I think Albion was a surprise packet last year and this year is

going to be much tougher all round, not just for us, but for all teams in the competition.

So yet another challenge dawns upon the one time experienced Welsh international.

You can bet your bottom dollar that any team under his astute guidance will be a team to be reckoned with no matter how tough the situation.

Victoria prepares for rep games

FROM JEFF OLVER

REPRESENTATIVE soccer has taken a new direction in Victoria in recent months, with a state team comprising of State League players.

Late 1990 saw Victoria take the game to the country when it defeated South Australia 3-0 in Mildura.

Since that game six of the Victorian players have been recruited by National Soccer League clubs.

In 1991 Victoria's number one competition is the Premier League, and it is from that Division that state coach Tim White has selected a team to represent Victoria.

Further games are being planned for later in 1991 versus South Australia and New South Wales.

However, Victoria's squad is very active, having just played the Australian Youth Squad who are preparing for World Cup games against Israel.

The Victorian squad also travelled to Morwell to play their Premier League club, who have upgraded their excellent facilities by installing new and very effective floodlights.

This club is anxious to enter the revamped Na-

tional League, and promotions such as this one can only serve to help its cause.

Their ambitious, hardworking and very efficient president Don Di Fabrizio is presenting a formidable case for soccer crazy Latrobe Valley to be represented at the highest level in Australia.

Morwell's coach, Bobby McLachlan, is an experienced campaigner and is well aware of the correct formula for Morwell to gain entry and be successful in the National Soccer League.

Well, at last George Wallace was speechless.

For those in the game who know George this is hard to believe, as he has been known to speak under water with a mouth full of marbles.

However, on the occasion of George's appointment as a life member of the Australian Soccer Federation, his surprise and delight left him with nothing to say but "Thank You".

I'm sure he thought of many things to say after the occasion, but on reflection perhaps a simple "Thank You" was enough.

I'm sure all those in the game who know him will join me in offering congratulations.

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Final Five steady as she goes

BY GREG BLAKE

THE Final Five is almost certain to remain unchanged between now and the final round of the home-and-away season on March 30.

The top nine sides remain in contention for a Final Five berth, according to our ASW calculation.



We've split the league into three categories with Marconi and Melbourne Croatia the competition top-dogs, the next seven clubs fighting for the remaining three final places and the bottom five, from Apia down, go into the also-ran category.

Apia is still in the chase — but only just and only an absolute miracle would see Manfred Schaefer's side into the play-offs despite some recent good form.

On the ASW chart calculations are based on wins for the top sides over bottom sides, and the form of mid-range clubs against fellow mid-ranked teams has been based on such variables as home ground advantage and recent league form.

For example, Marconi, almost unbeatable at home this season, is likely to win at least two of its last three home games despite quality opposition in Melbourne Croatia, Adelaide City and South Melbourne.

Marconi might be tested at Melita, but should win its round 26 game at Wollongong Macedonia.

We have allocated Marconi three wins and two draws from its final five games, despite its unexpected loss to Heidelberg.

Marconi will be grateful for having all but sewn up the double chance, as it faces the most difficult run home of any NSL club.

League leaders Melbourne Croatia is also put to the test with at least one loss to be expected in trips to Marconi, Sydney Olympic and Adelaide City.

But Ken Worden's side should down Melita and Wollongong Mac at Somers Street, thus we've given Melbourne Croatia six points from a possible



ten.

Goal difference could well decide the double chance

South Melbourne, currently struggling for form, could end the season fifth with its round 23 clash against Wollongong City its best chance for a win in the coming weeks — and even that's no certainty.



Trips to Preston, St George and Marconi will test them, as will a round 26 match-up with desperate Greek rival, Heidelberg.

It did, however, strengthen its position with last week's 1-0 win



over Tony Vrzina's luckless Sunshine.

Despite meeting Melbourne Croatia and Marconi in the final three weeks of the regular season, Adelaide City has enough 'winnable' games to ensure an



elimination final berth for the second successive season.

Reigning champion Sydney Olympic has



been running into form at the right time, but had a slip up against Sydney Croatia.

Aided by a favourable draw, it should snatch the double chance by season's end.

Olympic's 'crunch' games are at home to



Melbourne Croatia and away at Preston in round 25.

Those sides should make up the Top Five and by season's end we predict that the fifth placed club will still be holding at least a one game break over Preston and Sydney Croatia.

In analysing the draw it is clear that



round 23 will be the key round of matches in deciding the make-up of the final five for 1990/91.

On that day eight of the nine sides still in the running will meet in battle.



On that day Marconi travels to Melita, South Melbourne meets Wollongong City, Sydney Croatia takes on Preston and Melbourne Croatia faces Sydney Olympic in Sydney.



In the table below we show the run home

for each of the nine clubs still in the race with probable wins shown in capitals.

MARCONI

H v Melbourne Croatia (draw)
A v Melita (draw)
H v ADELAIDE CITY
H v SOUTH MELBOURNE
A v WOLLONGONG MAC

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

A v SUNSHINE
H v MELBOURNE CROATIA
A v Apia (draw)
A v Preston (loss)
H v MELITA

STH MELBOURNE

A v Preston (draw)
H v WOLLONGONG
A v St George (draw)
A v Marconi (loss)
H v Heidelberg (draw)

MELB. CROATIA

A v Marconi (draw)
A v Sydney Olympic (loss)
H v MELITA
H v WOLLONGONG MAC
A v Adelaide City (draw)

ADELAIDE CITY

A v ST GEORGE
H v HEIDELBERG
A v Marconi (loss)
A v Melita (draw)
H v Melbourne Croatia (draw)

PRESTON MAKE.

H v South Melbourne (draw)
A v Sydney Croatia (loss)
H v SUNSHINE
H v SYDNEY OLYMPIC
A v Apia (draw)

SYDNEY CROATIA

A v Apia (draw)
H v PRESTON
A v Wollongong (draw)
A v HEIDELBERG
H v ST GEORGE

WOLLONGONG CITY

H v WOLLONGONG MAC
A v South Melbourne (loss)
H v Sydney Croatia (draw)
H v APIA
A v SUNSHINE

MELITA EAGLES

A v HEIDELBERG
H v Marconi (draw)
A v Melbourne Croatia (loss)
H v Adelaide City (draw)
A v Sydney Olympic (loss)

On the basis of ASW's analysis chart the final top half of the ladder should look something very close to:

POSITION	TEAM	POINTS
1st	Marconi Fairfield	37
2nd	Melbourne Croatia	36
3rd	South Melbourne	31
4th	Adelaide City	31
5th	Sydney Olympic	31
6th	Sydney Croatia	29
7th	Preston	28

Vic Premier prospects

BY GREG BLAKE

WITH Victoria's Premier League competition less than a month away from commencement, in-

terest in the newly created competition in already high.

So much so that Melbourne's "unofficial" bookies have already set a market for the 1991 season.

The re-built Morwell Falcons is already installed as a luke-warm favourite for the Premier League championship, so that club's push for inclusion into the NSL is gathering momentum.

Last season's State League surprise packet Croydon City is also well respected despite no striker Andy Humble in 1991.

Other clubs expected to perform well in 1991, at least according to the gamblers, are Altona Gate, Fawkner and, despite substantial player losses, Brunswick Juventus.

Here is how the odds-men see the 1991 Premier League competition.

4-1 Morwell Falcons
5-1 Croydon City
6-1 Altona Gate, Fawkner
8-1 Brunswick Juventus
10-1 Albion
15-1 Green Gully
20-1 Bulleen
25-1 Thomastown, St Albans
33-1 Mooroolbark
35-1 Oakleigh
40-1 Northcote City
50-1 Doveton

Odds have been calculated for championship only.

★★★

VICTORIAN Premier League championship hopeful Altona Gate has signed Andy McMillan from Croydon City and Paul Donnelly from Caulfield City.

Both come highly recommended by new Altona Gate coach Roy MacLaren and according to club spokesman Tony Siskovski, both should play key roles for the club in 1991.

McMillan, who joined Altona Gate for \$1,000 and Donnelly, a talented former South Melbourne Hellas youth player, are expected to be walk-up starts for the first team which has shown some good form in practice matches.

Altona Gate is still chasing a new striker for the coming season and has spoken to "two or three" players, including former NSL leading goalscorer Charlie Egan.

Altona Gate met one of the well-fancied chances for Premier League honours Thomastown in a warm-up game last weekend.

"We're looking to consolidate our place near the top of the league this season," Siskovski told ASW.

★★★

Cedo Cirkovic's daunting task

BY DAVID BULLOCK



CEDO CIRKOVIC

NEWLY promoted Premier League club Oakleigh are looking no further than surviving and being a competitive unit, according to new coach Cedo Cirkovic.

Cirkovic, who was sacked by his previous club, Fawkner, half way through last season, has taken over the job vacated by Manos Milos, who crossed over to Northcote City during the close season.

With Manos's departure, several players have moved on, leaving Cirkovic with a tough job ahead in building a team capable of holding their own week in week out.

But despite all the obstacles he has to tackle before the season begins, he was quite philosophical when ASW spoke to him recently on his plans for the team and the season ahead.

"We have lost about five players from last season's first team, for example we have lost two players who have followed Manos to Northcote.

"Also we have lost Carl Hafford, who has been unable to come to terms with the club over his wages.

"We have some replacements lined up before the season starts, plus we will be giving our juniors a chance to prove themselves", explained Cirkovic.

Given the League is going to be a strong and demanding competition, is Oakleigh capable of taking up the challenge?

"I'm confident we

can do the job but we need to work hard and that will mean everybody involved within Oakleigh Soccer Club".

"If we can survive the first season, we should be able to grow stronger in time to come.

"No one in the club is expecting miracles to happen overnight."

"I am expecting a very hard and tough season, no one will be easy to beat in this league."

Several years ago, Oakleigh's ground was regarded as having one of the worst playing surfaces in the State League.

So bad was the ground, many teams cringed at the prospect of playing there.

Cirkovic was quick to point out that the club has made considerable improvements to the playing surface, and people should be quite happy when they see the improvements.

"I can honestly say that the ground is perfect, in fact I believe it is the best playing surface in Victoria since it has been fixed".

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Fourth time lucky for Les Scheinflug

AUSTRALIA's national youth coach Les Scheinflug will be shooting for his fourth World Youth Cup final series when he sends his Young Socceroos into the fray in the final elimination series against Israel at the Sydney Football Stadium next month.

It's a marvellous record and one that is unequalled anywhere else in the world youth international arena.

Scheinflug led Australia in previous final series in Australia in 1981, Mexico 1983 and Chile 1987.

Without doubt, this shrewd mentor is the 'Pied Piper' of world youth football.

The youngsters he has produced on the Australian scene have been many.

A great number of them have gone onto senior Socceroo status and stardom overseas.

Here are some of the fine players who have been nurtured by this dedicated coach over the years.

In the 1981 squad there was David Mitchell, Oscar Crino, Jim Patikas, Robbie Wheatley and Steve Blair.

In 1983 came Frank Farina, Tommy McCulloch, Tony Franken, Rod Brown, David Lowe, Robbie Slater and Tony Spyrakos.

In 1987 there were Jason Polak, Lou Hrstodoulou, Jason van Blerk, Alistair Edwards, Paul Trimboli and John Markovski.

All of them plus many others, a fine bunch of highly talented Australian-produced youngsters.

And no doubt from his present squad, many will go on to reach greatness.

Players such as Paul Okon, David Seal, Steve Corica, Kris Trajanovski and Brad Maloney to name but a few, look to have the world at their feet.

And how better a stage to grab the world spotlight than in the finals in Portugal in June?

After a solid workout when his side downed the Victorian state team 3-1 in Melbourne last Wednesday night, coach Scheinflug said he was happy with the manner in which the Young Socceroos were progressing.

"They are coming together well and I'm confident they will be at their peak in the two coming clashes against Israel," he said.

"But I forbid them to think about the finals in Portugal at this stage.

"All their attention must be focussed on getting over this tough hurdle against the Israelis.

"As in all final qualifying rounds, these will be tough encounters and we can count on stiff opposition from Israel.

"However by the same token I am convinced we have the talent and the team at our disposal to win through.

"I'm impressed by the dedication and will to progress in this present squad.

"They want to succeed and I'm confident they will do just that."

The World Youth Championships of course has also been the stepping stone for many of football's finest superstars.

All time greats to come through the WYC ranks are Argentina's Diego Maradona, Diaz and Calderon, Holland's van Basten.

Josimir, Dunga, Gilmar and Bebeto of Brazil, the USSR's Protasov, Buncol of Poland, Uruguay's Francescoli, McStay and Nevlin of Scotland, Webb and Allen of England and Julio Cesar Romario of Paraguay to name but a few.

And if that little lot doesn't motivate our kids to win through to Portugal — nothing will.

Excellent deal available for World Youth tickets

TICKETS went on sale on Wednesday Feb 20th, for the two match World Youth championship series between the Young Socceroos and Israel.

These vitally important matches will be held at the Sydney Football Stadium on Wednesday March 6 and Saturday March 9 (Kick-off times 7.30pm).

The price for tickets for single matches are \$12 for adults and \$3 children and pensioners.

A special two match deal has been arranged at \$20 and \$5 which are available on advance sales only.

The tickets are available from all Ticketek outlets or by phoning (02) 266 4800.

TOM ANDERSON REPORTING . . .

Israelis under prepared but extremely dangerous



THE Israeli youth team, which will play the Young Socceroos in the final elimination round to qualify for the World Youth Championships at the Sydney Football Stadium on March 6 and 9, is under prepared and far from being match hardened.



ISRAEL YOUTH SQUAD

GOALKEEPER: Yisshak Kornfein (Hapoel Jerusalem) substitute Shavit Elimelech (Maccabi Tel Aviv).

DEFENCE: Shmuel Levy (Betar Jerusalem), Artzi Sasson (Hapoel Jerusalem), Felix Halfon (Hapoel Tel Aviv), Ofer Mizrahi (Betar Jerusalem), David Amsalem (Bnei Yehuda).

MIDFIELD: Eyal Berkowitz (Maccabi Haifa), Avi Nimni (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Eitan Merachi (Betar Jerusalem), Yaniv Cohen (Maccabi Haifa), Haim Revivo (Bnei Yeuda), Adoram Casey (Shimshon Tel Aviv).

STRIKERS: Shai Holtzman (Maccabi Netanya), Asaf Tubbi (Shimshon Tel Aviv), Amir Turjeman (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Alon Mizrahi (Hapoel Tel Aviv).

The Israeli preparation for this important final qualifying series has been greatly hampered by the Gulf war.

Because of the situation in the Middle East, their preparation program has been depleted and thrown into chaos.

However, despite this, the visitors will still be formidable opponents.

It's a well known fact, the Israelis are born fighters and never more dangerous than with their backs up against the wall.

And, nobody realises this more than Young Socceroo coach, Les Scheinflug.

Because of the tense situation in the Middle East, the Israeli team has been involved in few international matches over the past 12 months.

Since the start of the year, the Gulf war has greatly interfered with their preparation, and training sessions for their youth team only resumed a few weeks ago.

Many of the players who serve in the army were not given leave for training sessions, and two matches planned for this month against Poland and Romania had to be cancelled.

Consequently, all recent preparatory matches have been against Israel first division sides.

Over the past 13 months, the Israeli

team has played nine international games against national teams and clubs.

Five of these were played in January 1990 as part of the traditional international youth tournament which is held annually in Israel.

In this tournament, the Israelis were disappointing and finished in fourth place.

However, it was a tough series and included strong teams such as the USSR, Sweden and Portugal.

The results for Israel in this series were — Israel 13 Greece 2 (Greece played with very young players), Israel 5 Liechtenstein 0, Hungary 1 Israel 0, Israel 0 Sweden 0, Portugal 4 Israel 0.

After that series the Israelis went into limbo.

Then in October, preparations started again.

They played four games, with the most prestigious being on December 18 in Portugal against the reigning world youth champions.

Portugal won 3-1 with striker Alon Mizrahi the scorer for Israel.

Prior to that match the team held a training camp in London, where they played three matches.

They lost 1-0 to the Arsenal youth team, beat Luton Town youth team 4-1 (scorers Amir Turjeman 2, Yaniv Cohen, Asaf

Tubbi) and won 3-2 against the Wembley amateurs youth side (scorers Tubbi, Cohen, Turjeman).

The majority of the Israeli players play for first and second division sides, but as yet have not won leading roles in their club setups.

The three big stars of the Israeli youth side are midfielders Eyal Berkowitz and Avi Nimni and striker Asaf Tubbi.

keeper Boni Ginzburg.

Ginzburg, who starred against the Young Socceroos in the 1983 qualifying round in Costa Rica, now plays in Scotland with champion club Glasgow Rangers.

As they wind down their training in Tel Aviv the Israeli players are reported as being 'nervous' about the coming games against the Young Socceroos.

The players are wor-

ried about the 'home advantage' held by our Aussie kids, and the evening matches under floodlights to which they are not accustomed.

The Israeli coach is Amnon Raz, who has built his reputation in youth football.

Raz started with the national under-16 team and then four years ago led them to the European finals in France.

He was given control of the youth team last summer, after previous coach Shlomo Shereff quit to take over club side Maccabi Haifa.

THE REFEREES

THREE New Zealand referees and one from Norway have been selected on the panel to control the Young Socceroo v Israel games at the Sydney Football Stadium.

The opening match on Wednesday March 6 will be controlled by Barrie Tasker of New Zealand.

The second game on March 9 by Norway's Egil Nervik.

The two other New Zealand officials for the series are Gary Fleet and Kev Wallace.



Boni Ginzburg — the Israeli youth product who hit the top.

This talented trio also plays for the Israeli Olympic team in the European preliminary rounds of their Olympic qualifying division.

They all took part in the only match to date in the Olympic series when they drew 2-2 with Greece in November.

Nimni scored one of Israel's goals in this match.

Berkowitz plays his club football with Maccabi Haifa, Nimni for Maccabi Tel Aviv and Tubbi for Shimshon Tel Aviv, which was relegated last season to the second division.

Two 17 year old players for the Israeli under-17 national team are also included in their youth side.

They are stopper Sagi Gonen from Maccabi Haifa and gifted Maccabi Netanya striker Shai Holtzman.

Like Australia, the Israeli youth side produces many future stars.

One who went on to make his mark in the senior international and club arena is goal-

Young Socceroos v Israel

Special message
from NSW premier
Nick Greiner

NSW premier Nick Greiner has sent a message to the Australian and Israeli teams for their clash at the Sydney Football Stadium next month.

Premier Greiner loves his football and is expected to be in attendance at the crucial matches.

"As premier of New South Wales it is my great pleasure to welcome Israel's national youth soccer team to Sydney," he said.

"I am certain that the very many soccer lovers in our country are going to be treated to soccer of the highest standard and played at its sporting best.

"No doubt the Australian national youth team is looking forward to the challenge. The stakes are high as both teams do their best to win through to the Youth Cup finals to be held later this year in Portugal.

"The two matches to be played at the Sydney Football Stadium promise to be a sports lover's delight.

"My best wishes go to both teams with a very warm Sydney welcome to our visitors from Israel."

Many clubs ride on soccer's money-go-round

BY MIKE JOHNSON

MOST clubs in world professional soccer are in debt.

That is a financial fact.

The larger the club the bigger the debt.

It has been this way for decades, since the transfer value of soccer players began to skyrocket.

On the one hand, the spiralling transfer fees are plunging clubs into debt. On the other hand the clubs know they will usually be able to get out of debt by selling their best players.

If the financial problem becomes insurmountable, those clubs with infrastructure: their own stadium, own social club, even own land on which is situated know this can all be sold.

Thus the Inter Milan, Real Madrids, Marseilles of this world are covered in the event of financial castastrophe overtaking them.

Often, especially in Europe, there is also a business tycoon in the position of club president, who is also a financial buffer to forestall bankruptcy.

In England, clubs are run as companies with a board of directors and a chairman, who is usual-

ly a wealthy man, but not in the class of some of the European tycoons.

Thus one of the nation's largest clubs, London's Tottenham Hotspur, can be in severe financial straits, even risking bankruptcy to the degree that they may need to sell some of their assets, starting with burgeoning superstar, Paul Gascoigne.

Usually the threat of bankruptcy comes about because clubs need to borrow too much

money to pay their way and cannot repay the interest charged on their borrowings — this is a problem for all business, especially during times of high inflation.

St George BSC has been facing these problems here in Australia for many years.

Alex Pongrass, a manufacturing millionaire president, and a thriving social club sustained it in its earlier halcyon years.

Pongrass provided his financial know-how rather than cash donations.

Today, as St George struggles for its existence, Pongrass is in semi-retirement, the social club battles to trade profitably and the soccer section is now a

private company — an innovation in Australia.

Tony Balazsi is managing director, charged with the responsibility to make it all work.

Frank Arok, in his full-time role, exercises his wiles on the soccer field as coach and as barterer and financial juggler, selling players and developing new players to keep his club alive.

It has been suggested that Sydney Olympic carries the biggest debt of all clubs in Australia.

Its large and generous spectator base has to date kept it 'sweet' with its bank, though the manager is aware of the club's limited infrastructure.

It was that bank which enabled Olympic to cough up \$40,000 for Scot Ollerenshaw and keep St George's debtors happy for a while.

Smaller professional clubs in Australia are the ones most at risk; the ones most likely to disappear overnight.

Most do not have their own ground, own social club or own land and their players fetch little money in the transfer market, and might even be owed money by the club.

Thus they bring in no transfer fee under



SCOTT OLLERENSHAW

Federation rules.

Fairfield City (formerly Uruguay), relegated from State League in 1989, seeking to win Second Division in 1990, finished third then folded at the end of the year because of lack of money.

My old Wollongong club, Fairy Meadow, whom one coached to State League a few years ago and which almost won promotion to National League under John Fleming, is now no more.

Lack of money was also the reason.

Hajduk, a lower division club in the Cabramatta region of Sydney with a small, unfinished stadium and a small social club backing onto the ground, folded during 1990.

In this case it was a blessing for my club, Southern Districts, which will have use of

the ground during 1991 in our debut in State League.

Just three years old, having emerged from the lower divisions, we will be among 12 clubs in State League, some long established, some not.

Canberra Croatia, Newcastle Austral, Blacktown City, Sydney Avala, Canterbury, Polonia, Sutherland — these have been around for a long time.

Rockdale Ilinden, Warringah, the newly cemented North Shore team combining Kuring-gai and Manly, Sydney Macedonia and ourselves — these are not so long or the scene.

Several of these clubs, despite their current status are not as financially secure as they would like to be.

When discussing their prospects for the year one should look at their budgets for the year.

A yearly budget of some \$300,000 is now a yardstick to win State League and to be able, other requirements being satisfactory, to be competitive in National League where most club budgets run from \$400,000 — \$800,000 for the year.

My club will run a

budget estimated at some \$110,000 this year.

Canberra, Newcastle, Blacktown and Canterbury will run budgets of some \$300,000 this year.

I have it on impeccable authority that Canterbury spent \$300,000 in State League last year to finish mid-table.

Most other teams will be between \$150,000 to \$200,000 in their 1991 spending, with the Manly-North Shore club and ourselves closer to the \$100,000 mark.

Sutherland with its massive junior nursery, but ineffective social club, has been a low spender in recent years.

This year sponsorship will put it into the middle spending bracket as it was last year, when it had its best season for some time.

Money buys the best players and the best players get the best results.

Soccer business is as simple as that.

Even a highly experienced, highly effective coach such as Frank Arok finds it hard to complete with the big spenders of National League.

Nevertheless the coach can make the difference, as Arok has done at St George, without

ever really getting the credit for his work, as he never really did for his outstanding work with the national team.

We often do not give credit to outstanding sustained effort and ability.

One finds it irksome these days going to Marconi Stadium to listen to the criticism of the Marconi players and coach by spectators spoilt on a surfeit of success.

They will drive Berti Mariani away from the place.

If they do, they will regret it.

He also has ability which makes the difference between winning and losing — and he does it without fuss.

By remaining at Marconi he will be an important factor in pushing that club to even greater heights, as it needs to as the standard bearer on which all Australian club soccer is judged.

England has Liverpool, Uruguay has Penarol, Germany Bayern Munich, Scotland Glasgow Rangers, Yugoslavia Red Star, Argentina River Plate, Chile Colo Colo, Spain Real Madrid.

Australian soccer needs a great, ongoing Marconi.

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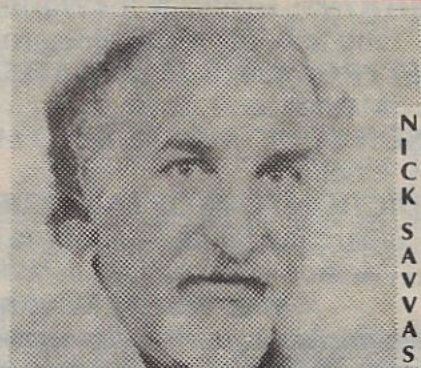
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PERSONALITY PLAYER



* KRIS TRAJANOVSKI *

(Preston Makedonia)

BIRTH DATE & PLACE: 19.2.72 Melbourne.
HEIGHT & WEIGHT: 177cms 80kg
MARRIED: No.
HOME: Geelong.
NICKNAME: "Traja".
CAR: Celica.
OCCUPATION: Full time soccer player.
PREVIOUS CLUB: AIS.
FAVOURITE OVERSEAS CLUB: Liverpool.
FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYER: Gary Lineker.
FAVOURITE LOCAL PLAYER: Steve Corica.
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: All of them.
FAVOURITE GROUND: BT Connor Reserve.
MOST MEMORABLE GAME: World Youth U/20's qualifiers.
BIGGEST THRILL: Being selected in U/20's youth squad.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Game against Melbourne Croatia 0-1 (Round 18).
WORST INJURY: Nil.
FAVOURITE POSITION: Striker.
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Golf.
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Bob Marley
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: ABC Soccer.
BEST FRIENDS: Too many to name.
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Parents, Steven Short and Ron Smith.
AMBITIONS: To qualify for World Youth U20's and to become full time professional.
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATES: Joe Markovac.
PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: Gary Lineker.
PREDICTION FOR TOP FIVE SERIES: Preston, Marconi, South Melbourne Hellas, Melbourne Croatia, Adelaide City.

Compiled by Michael Komadina.

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It seems as if Sydney Croatia's Mike Grbevski has found his real position — that of a wing striker. He came through the ranks with St George as a full-back, and has been switched around since joining his present club. Filling in on the wing proved that he has pace to burn, and defenders are going to find it difficult to contain him whenever he plays there.

Apia Leichhardt's 21 year old defender Milan Blagojevic is looking more like a classy player with every passing match. No wonder club president Ron Orsatti is talking confidently about the possibility of securing a big fee for him from Ita-

coached by ASW's Mike Johnson.

Strong security arrangements are being put in place for the World Youth finals deciders — the Young Socceroos versus Israel at the Sydney Football Stadium on Wednesday March 6 and Saturday March 9. Special provisions are being made to accredit media personnel for the games.

Marconi coach Berti Mariani is hoping his players keep clear of "yellow peril" caution cards. So far this season only Bobby Catlin has been unlucky enough to incur a suspension. However, there are a number of

ambitions for his club, who have been talking over a possible amalgamation with St George. The Saints have plenty of expertise to add to the possible partnership.

Singapore will be the new home team for Sunshine George Cross midfielder, Craig Foster. Originally a product of Lismore on the NSW North Coast, he will now be able to try his hand in the Malaysian National League. Sydney Olympic stars Abbas Saad and Alistair Edwards join Johore, after being the idols of Singapore in their last season.

ABC-TV's NSL preview show will air for the first time on Saturday, March 2 at 1.30pm and will tie in with the repeat of English soccer. The ABC will run the half-hour programme at the same time slot for the remainder of the season. This will give youngsters the chance to learn of star NSL players and upcoming games.

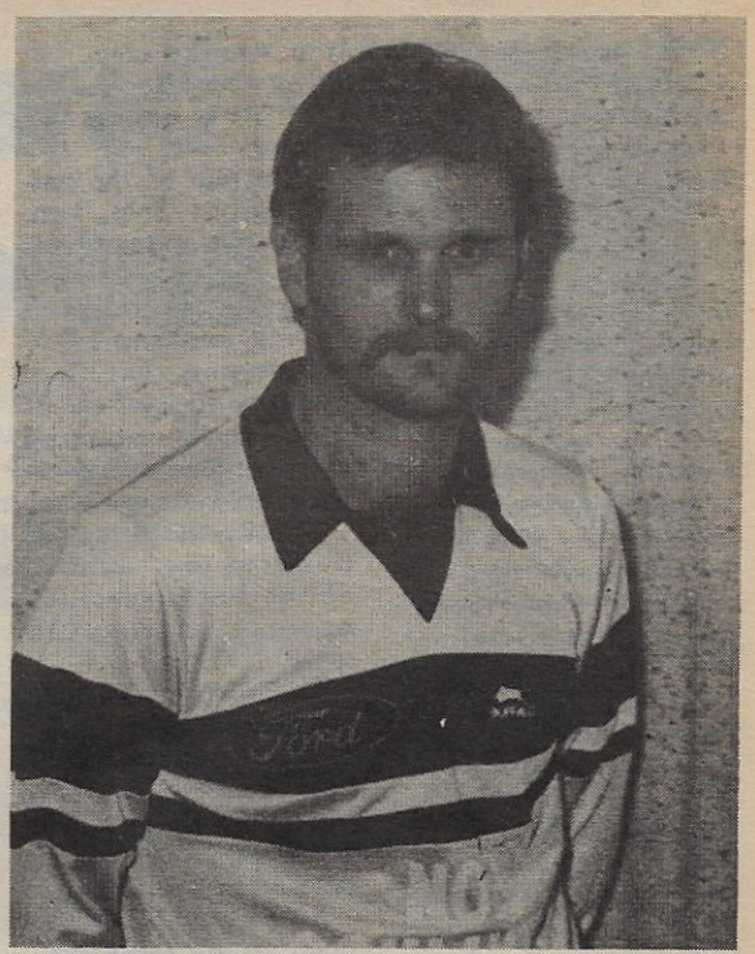
Vlado Bozinovski has been troubled by a groin injury and has not appeared in any of the Sporting Lisbon sides for some time.

Ferenc Puskas has been added to the ASF's new national teams' committee, which at this stage is being assembled. Frank Arok is also on the committee.

Adelaide Hellas have confirmed they will apply to play in the National League next season, despite having debts of \$2.2 million, as well as a huge interest bill. The club claims that their \$3 million assets, including a central business district property, should go in their favour, and that introduction of poker machines in South Australia will reverse their situation.

When South Melbourne took the field at Middle Park against Apia yesterday, Steve Blair notched up his 200th NSL game, as did Apia defender Mark Brown while Adelaide City goalie Robert Zabica celebrated his 100th appearance against Wollongong City on Sunday.

Four members of the Czechoslovak team that toured Australia are amongst foreign players Italian clubs are interested in. According to the mass-circulation and authoritative "Guerin



Sydney Croatia's reluctant stand-in coach Steve Watson took over from Tony Vrzina in controversial circumstances.

He has however taken no time to prove himself a dab hand at the game, seeing his side win at the expense of front-runners South Melbourne Hellas and Sydney Olympic.

Sportivo", Roman Kukleta and Jiri Nemec are worth \$4.5 million and Ladislav Pecko and Pavel Kuka \$4 million.

Zivko Hristovski has walked out on Wollongong City. The clever midfielder claimed he was not getting a fair go, but coach David Ratcliffe points out that he still played in 16 games despite suspensions and injuries. The player's whereabouts are unknown at this stage.

The Dutch Cup clash between Graham Arnold's Roda JC and Ajax set down for Wednesday, has been postponed because the entire police force of Kerkrade, where Roda is located, will be mobilised for the start of the trial of the Irish gunmen who killed two Australian tourists near Kerkrade last year.

Zlatko Arambasic scored the goal for his Belgian side Mechelen in their 2-1 defeat by Hungarian club Tata-banya in a friendly, before the foul weather cancelled two full competition rounds.

Eddie Krncevic got back amongst the goals in Belgium before the big chill created havoc to the fixtures list. In a deferred game he scored twice in a win for FC Liege over Jason Polak's Kortrijk.

In reply to a reader's query "What happened to former Socceroo Ray Baartz?" he is still conducting his successful sports goods business in Newcastle. He is also looking forward to the return of the Coalie City to the

NSL under Dr Graham Bradley's NSL review.

Former Uruguayan international and Parramatta Melita captain Washington Gonzales was told by a specialist over five weeks ago that he might have to forget the current season. But attention to the doctor's advice and his outstanding fitness has seen him come back to the game.

Jarek Nowicki, the former Polish youth international, has been dealt a blow. He has had to seek advice over a damaged knee. Melita coach Raul Blanco is unhappy over the prospect of Nowicki being absent from the side with big games coming up.

Club secretary Jill Everard is keen to see a big turnout at North Ryde Soccer Club's 1991 Ryde Games Soccer Knockout. This event will be held at Magdala Oval, Magdala Oval, North Ryde on Saturday March 23. Under 10 and 13 finals and lunch are at noon, with the All Age knockout at 1pm.

Hindmarsh Stadium was not a blaze of lights for Sunday's NSL clash with Wollongong City.

The new \$600,000-plus stadium flood-lighting system was to have been switched on for this game.

But the big light up now is scheduled for March 10 when City meets Heidelberg in its second last minor round game of the season.





SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER SCENE

WITH ALAN CLARK



SA clubs eye NSL prospects

ADELAIDE Croatia could spend up to \$20,000 on its submission for entry to next year's re-vamped NSL.

The club had a meeting this week and decided formally to go ahead with its application.

A total of 14 teams nationwide will be selected from clubs who have to have their applications in by March 31.

They all have to meet stringent selection criteria.

"We have called for quotes from promotions consultants to handle or submission in a very professional manner," said Croatia president Tony Kilic.

"That could cost us as much as \$20,000 and we might be prepared to pay that. But we shall be looking at all options over our application."

"We would have preferred more time to prepare our application and possibly there still could be an extension of time for applications. But we definitely are going ahead."

Hellas also is proceeding with plans for re-entry to the big league.

"We are preparing to launch a strong bid for inclusion," said club spokesman Steve Christodoulou.

"We have formed a

working party to look at it. They will decide the best way to proceed. But we are going ahead."

Azzurri and Salisbury look the only other two SA clubs capable of mounting a

NSL challenge. Both were non-committal on their actions.

"We are considering the whole situation at the moment," said Blues boss Rep Giordano.

Salisbury executive

Jack Innes said his club had a copy of the entry criteria.

"They rightly are very stiff," said Innes. "We are holding a committee meeting on Monday to discuss the whole question."

England may have hit on an idea that is worth copying in SA.

Top referees are to be invited to train with Football League clubs.

Soccer bosses see this as one way to improve communications between referees, players and officials.

Local whistlers, meanwhile, had a most interesting and informative weekend seminar when assistant national coach Jim Reeves was the main guest speaker.

He outlined the do's and don'ts of player clothing and gave an insight into the new professional foul ruling.

A new inspector's form for referees is to be adopted in SA. It will take the form of that used in the NSL.

"It is better for inspectors, administrators and the referees themselves," said secretary of the SA Division of the Australian Referees Federation, Andrew Marchant.

"It is far more helpful for refs."

★★★

Croatia coach Peter Jaksa says SA fans will not see the best of his side for another seven

or eight weeks.

"I am just getting to know the players — how they react and what makes them tick," said Jaksa.

"They, too, are just learning how I do things and what I expect."

"We have a long list of injuries and it will be seven or eight weeks until we are at our best."

Injuries to Mladen Putanec, Juan Rodriguez and import Dragan Kekez are hampering selection.

But Deni Stepic has returned from suspension and skipper Ivica Jurkovic and George Konstandopoulos also should be back.

★★★

X-rays have revealed Foundation SA Player of the Year Paul Wilde has a broken bone in his right foot.

That will keep him out for two to three weeks.

★★★

THE lack of a killer striker could strangle Adelaide City's bid for this year's NSL title.

That is the view of former Soccerroo David Ratcliffe.

"Melbourne Croatia

is the best team we have played this year but that was just on any given day," said Ratcliffe.

"City, though are one of the best teams in the League. They always are. You only have to look at the lads they have in the national squad. Most of the others have been there and just cannot get in at the moment or are on their way up."

"But if City have a problem it is that they do not have a Greg Brown or Tony Krslovic — someone you can count on for 12 goals or so in a season."

"Maxie (Steve Maxwell) is a good player in a purple patch of form but he is just not an out and out proven scorer."

★★★

Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic rested skipper Sergio Melta from training last week.

"He has been under a lot of pressure at work and with soccer so he could come back refreshed after a couple of days away," said Matic.

Ernie Tapai put in so determined an effort in



Bridges (Cumberland) in stripes and Konstandopoulos (Adelaide Croatia) go for the football in the last Foundation SA State League season. Pic: JANUSZ KAMMA.

his training return from achilles tendon surgery, Matic had to tell him to "slow down."

"He still has a bit of a limp but he put in a lot of effort," said Matic of his dynamic Soccerroo.

"I don't want to predict anything, but if he keeps up this rate of progress he could back for the playoffs — if we make them."

"Joe Mullen, though, has been advised to take things easier after his injured knee played up."

★★★

The Polonia hierarchy is keen to talk with key out of contract defender Damien Harley who has returned from trials in England.

But chances are the State player may line up elsewhere this season.

Polonia brought in teenage striker Frank Sergi for last week's Ampol Cup clash with Hellas.

The 16-year-old is a product of the club's colts.

Greg Buch has regained full fitness again after being the victim of street violence.

Frank Timar is out with a groin strain and Zeljko Blagojevic still is on the outer with a foot injury.

★★★

FORMER Youth Soccerroo Kurt Reynolds is

on the comeback trail with Hellas.

He has played in a couple of trial games but still is too far down on fitness to be considered for Ampol Cup action.

Hellas has one to watch in teenage mid-field prospect Frank Tibaldi.

★★★

Salisbury looks to have a class act on its hands in Joey Matthew Coutouvidis, 16.

He slotted in beside Neville Flounders in his Ampol debut and played with the elegance, yet aggression, that stamps him as a real player of the future.

★★★

An official of a leading local club wants the SA Soccer Federation to impose a transfer ceiling of \$5000 on players moving between Foundation clubs.

"There should be a maximum fee of \$5000 with a minimum of \$2000 so clubs don't miss out even if they sell players they have brought through their ranks," said the official.

"But, really, the transfer fee situation in SA is going over the top. Not enough people are watching games to warrant the payments some people are getting."

"We don't want to disillusion anybody but you have to draw the line somewhere."

"The Soccer Federation could do well to set a ceiling."

★★★

All First and Second Division clubs will feature in this year's West End Premier Cup.

The competition kicks off on September 7 with home and away minor rounds until September 28.

★★★

Coach Peter Jaksa will have an energy-charged early season gauge for his Croatia side when he lines up against his old club Hellas in Wednesday's first semi-final of the Ampol Cup at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Croatia last week edged into the semis with a good Theo Anastasiou headed goal — set up by little Frank Radic — ending depleted Salisbury's brave challenge.

Hellas, with the influence of coach Alby Kidd and Silver Fox Raymond Blair shining out like a beacon in the most organised team pattern of the evening, marched through with a 4-1 pummeling of Polonia.

Polonia could have been two up after just 20 minutes. It did not take its chances and was buried by goals from Blair 2, Kidd and Con Kokkinoplitis, whose heading ability belies his lack of inches.

Polonia scored late in the game through impressive Shane Porter. The demise of the Reds saw Modbury go through to meet Adelaide City in Wednesday's late semi.

★★★



Steve Maxwell on the prowl for Adelaide City. The big fellows is turning in some fine performances for Adelaide City.

ACT keen to attract international games

BY GRAHAM COOKE

BRUCE Stadium still figures in the plans of the ACT Soccer Federation, president Ron Watkins says.

Despite the fact the sport has not been a regular user of the stadium since 1987, Bruce will still be required



PIN UP NSL PLAYER



MILADIN KUC (Wollongong City)

FULL NAME: Miladin Kuc.

CLUB: Wollongong City.

BIRTHPLACE & DATE: Belgrade 3.1.61.

MARRIED: No.

NICKNAME: Kuki.

OCCUPATION: Footballer.

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Zemun (Yugoslavia), Avala FC (NSW).

FAVOURITE GROUND: Brandon Park.

MOST MEMORABLE GAME: Scoring a goal for Wollongong City against Preston.

BIGGEST THRILL: Playing in a match for Zemun against Rudhr, and honours at Youth level.

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing any match.

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Basketball.

FAVOURITE FOOD: Pizza.

FAVOURITE FILM: War and Peace.

FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Soccer.

BEST FRIEND: Nick and Spasic.

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My former coach, Popadic.

AMBITIONS: To achieve the best possible results with Wollongong City in the NSL.

BEST FRIEND IN SOCCER: Spasic.

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: Maradona.

ADVICE TO YOUNG PLAYERS: Make sure you train hard, and take note of all good coaches.

— KEITH GILMOUR

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for a number of prestige matches, he said.

Watkins revealed he has put a plan to the Australian Soccer Federation which, if accepted, would boost the number of overseas teams seen in Canberra.

"I have suggested Canberra be a 'port of entry' to visiting national sides," he said.

"The deal would be that they acclimatise to Australian conditions in Canberra, training at the Australian Institute of Sport, and that they play a trial match against the ACT at Bruce Stadium.

"They would then go on to play their major international matches in other centres."

Watkins said he would dearly love that arrangement apply to England's tour later this year.

"This kind of arrangement means we would see many more visiting sides in Canberra and our players would get much more exposure to top-class opposition — all at little extra cost," he said.

"It should make everyone happy."

However, he stressed there was still a lot of work to be done if the proposal is to come to fruition.

Referring to current negotiations between the ACT Government and the Canberra Raiders rugby league team over the use of Bruce, Watkins said he would resist any attempt to place restrictions on other codes' access to the stadium.

"We want to work with the Raiders for the good of all sports, but at the same time we want the Government to be sensitive to the rights of other groups to hire the facility on financial terms that are viable," he said.

"The stadium must be available to us at an affordable cost in order that we can build our equity into an elite product including state and international games."

"The upgrading of the facility used ACT taxpayers' funds and any arrangements regarding control of the stadium needs to recognise the other potential local users and protect their interests."



BATTLE OF GIANTS AT BRANDON PARK



Action from the first round Wollongong Macedonia v Wollongong City clash at Brandon Park. The local rivals come together on Sunday March 3, kicking-off at 3pm. PHOTO: PETER NOVESKI.

Gansler has resigned

FROM MICHELANGELO RUCCI IN NEW YORK.

FRANZ Beckenbauer has crossed his name off the list, but the US Soccer Federation is still searching for coaching riches to lead its paupers at the 1994 World Cup finals here.

The US, an automatic qualifier for the 24-nation finals along with last year's world champion Germany, is now interviewing former Dutch all-time great Johan Cruyff, Yugoslav Bora Milutinovich, who worked miracles with Mexico and Costa Rica at the past two World Cups, and Swede Sven Goran Eriksson.

No US coach will be considered for the job, not even current coach Bob Gansler, who led the US to its first World Cup in 40 years by taking the Americans to Italy last year where they lost all three matches.

Gansler will remain US coach for at least the next 60 days, when the USSF hopes to complete negotiations to secure a foreign coach.

"It's not fair to keep Bob in limbo," USSF president Alan Rothenburg said.

However, the USSF is not setting in stone the target of finding a coach in 60 days.

That figure is the final death sentence for Gansler, who has had his contract extended by 30 day periods since returning from the World Cup under great criticism from the small but vocal American soccer media.

"If there are still people we want to look at, or if there are



FRANZ BECKENBAUER

people who are unavailable because of other commitments, we'll continue the search beyond the 60 days," Rothenburg disclosed.

Rothenburg said the eventual US coach must have "vast international experience."

"We're lacking a coach with vast international experience to take our team to the next level of the World Cup, so we need a foreign coach," he continued.

Beckenbauer, who coached West Germany to its third World Cup triumph in Italy last year, is prepared to be the coaching guru and adviser to the US team, but not as a hands-on coach.

STOP PRESS — Bob Gansler resigned on Friday after the USA lost 1-0 to Bermuda.

Canadian-based defender to join Melbourne Croatia

BY PAUL KLARIC OF AAP

MELBOURNE Croatia has finally received the go-ahead for Canadian based defender Vlado Vanis to play in the team's lead-up to the finals next month.

The 26-year old former Dinamo Zagreb player was in doubt to come for the last five matches and finals series after the Canadian Soccer Federation ignored three requests from the Australian Soccer Federation for a clearance.

Vanis, who was voted the Canadian Soccer League's defender of the year while playing with the Vancouver 86ers last season, is expected to arrive next week in time to prepare for the finals series in April.

Vanis is likely to line-up for Croatia in an exhibition match against top Western Australian team Perth Italia on Sunday.

Croatia was to have played Marconi on that date but the match was postponed at Marconi's request because the club has three players in the Young Socceroos squad playing Israel at the Sydney Football Stadium on March 6 and 9.

Croatia and Marconi will now play the round 22 match on Wednesday, March 27, in Sydney, four days before the final minor

round match of the year.

The Perth trip is also likely to include a match against Perth Croatia on the Friday as part of coach Ken Worden's plan to keep his team in trim for the coming finals campaign.

Croatia secretary Zeljko Sabo said the arrival of Vanis was a welcome relief.

"We have been trying for several months to get him but problems have always popped up," Sabo said.

"The Australian Soccer Federation sent three requests on our behalf to Canada but got no reply and so we contacted an associate in Canada who followed it up for us."

Sabo said despite the delay the Croatia committee was convinced the arrival of Vanis would boost the team's depth as the club strived to collect its first NSL title.

"At this time of the year suspensions as well as injuries arise and we don't want to find ourselves without key players in the middle of the finals," Sabo said.

"We would have liked him earlier but he'll still be useful to us now than not at all."

Vanis, who is married with two children, will come to Australia by himself before sending for his family later.



Quit

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

Stu Cannell (Heidelberg) stretches out to foil a run by Apia's Graham Jennings — Photo: STEVE GOSCH.



Sydney Olympic striker Alistair Edwards shadowed by Wollongong City's former Socceroo captain Charlie Yankos. PHOTO — STEVE GOSCH.



A determined Marshall Soper of Parramatta Melita works his way past Sydney Croatia's Velimir Kupresak.



Sydney Croatia's high scoring striker Tony Krslovic receives some strong attention from two of his former St George team-mates.

As the 1990/91 National Soccer League approaches its finale ASW takes time out to present this pictorial from a number of action packed matches this season.



Superb airborne action from Adelaide! Steve Maxwell (right) in a challenge with a Sunshine GC opponent at SA headquarters — Hindmarsh Stadium. Photo: JANUSZ KAMMA.



The race is on between Marconi's Paul Okon (left) and his South Melbourne opponent in the Round 13 clash at Middle Park. PIC — JOE MONTEMURRO.

Vasquez trumps for Sydney Croatia

BY PAUL GOODWIN

SYDNEY Croatia opened up a two point gap at the top of the NSL Youth League Northern Division ladder by accounting for the AIS 3-1 at the Croatian Sports Centre on Sunday.

Jorge Vasquez scored a hat-trick, the third goal of which was the result of a long solo run in the final seconds.

Croatia began with a 26th minute goal, when Vasquez turned AIS defender Sorrentino and shot past the helpless Vince Matasa in the Students' goal.

Scott Wells had initially put a ball through the legs of Lozanonski to set up the top marksman, who is in brilliant form right now.

Wally Savor got the ball across to Matthew Zec in the 57th, and the cross was put away from 18 metres by Vasquez, who steered his shot just inside the left hand post.

Ante Milicic pulled one back for the visitors when he pounced on a cross by Tony Carbone in the 87th, but any chance of a late equaliser was dispelled by Vasquez with his third strike, in the dying stages.

Apia Leichhardt continues to show inconsistent form, this time comfortably accounting for Sydney Academy 4-0 on Saturday evening.

Derek Poimer grabbed No 1 in the 10th when Brian Ellem, his Mt Colah neighbour

on the comeback trail, put him through nicely.

Simon Beaufils got the rest for a well earned hat-trick — his first goals of the current campaign.

He headed home a Klaus Okon cross in the 29th minute, took a solo run for the second in the 48th, and accepted a David Batten dummy for the other in the 85th, finding the top corner brilliantly.

Sydney Olympic deserved to beat Marconi 2-0 on the strength of their more direct approach to Sunday's match.

When Jason Mamone handled the ball in the area in the 38th minute, Eric Hristodoulou stepped up and converted the resultant penalty kick with ease.

Defender Michael Paleologous came up with an excellent through pass for Jason Bennett to make it 2-0 in the 70th, with a strong 10 metre drive.

Marconi had a chance to get back from the penalty spot in the 80th, but Gabriel Lopez, who had been the victim of the foul, put his shot wide of the left upright.

Adamstown Rosebud finally broke through for their first win, defeating Wollongong Macedonia 1-0 at Brandon Park.

They had one goal disallowed — a free kick by Shane Pryce — when the defending side was penalised after the ball had been struck.

George Safouris converted from the penalty spot in the



WALLY SAVOR

75th when a Macedonia defender handled deliberately on the line.

Jon Brady hit the bar in the 87th minute, and Darren Lang had a shot booted off the line as the Rosebuds kept up the pressure, which eventually brought them their breakthrough result.

The other Wollongong side, the Wolves, won 1-0 against Highfields Azzurri at Whitebridge Oval.

They secured the points from a 27th minute penalty, courtesy of Peter Kotamanidis.

Highfields finished the game with only eight men, having two sent off and a third carried off with no further substitutes left on the bench.

The winner came after a run by Paul Giusti came to an end when

Craig Curry brought him down in the box, with the Highfields defender receiving his marching orders from referee Milton Pollock.

Craig Penfold was the second to go in the 55th, but despite this the home side could have drawn level when a Ricky Bucci cross in the 80th was headed only centimetres wide by Mal Moses.

Azzurri coach Wayne Simpson was full of praise for his team, which put up such a fighting display against one of the top three sides in the competition.

Sydney Croatia	17	13	1	3	38	11	27
Sydney Olympic	19	10	5	4	30	18	25
AIS	17	11	2	4	43	23	24
Wollongong City	18	10	3	5	25	21	23
St George	17	9	3	5	42	28	21
Parra Melita	17	8	3	6	22	19	19
Apia Leichhardt	18	8	2	8	39	36	18
Sydney Academy	17	7	3	7	27	21	17
Marconi	18	5	3	10	25	33	13
Highfield Azzurri	18	4	4	10	28	43	12
W'gong Mace	18	3	1	14	14	44	7
Adamstown R.	18	1	4	13	20	55	6

(does not include late kick off game Melita vs St George)

NORTHERN NSW

Lake Ousts Maitland

Round 3. Friday February 22.

Lake Macquarie vs Maitland 3-0, Adamstown vs Stockton 2-1, Cardiff vs Toronto Awaba 2-1.

Sunday February 24.

Cessnock City vs Lambton Jaffas 1-1, Edgeworth vs N'cle Olympic 1-1, Highfield Azz vs N'cle Croatia 0-1, West Wallsend vs Kurri Kurri 3-2, Wes-

ton vs Beresfield TBA. DRAW FOR QUARTER-FINALS. SUNDAY MARCH 10 AT WESTON PARK.

12.15 pm Adamstown Rosebud vs Lake Macquarie, 1.30 pm Newcastle Olympic vs Lambton Jaffas, 2.45 pm West Wallsend vs Toronto Awaba, 4.00 pm Newcastle Croatia vs Cardiff.

— EDDIE BOARDS

SOUTHERN DIVISION 23rd February

Melbourne Croatia 1 (Milanovic) Heidelberg United 1 (Mangos), Melbourne Croatia Colts 0 Sunshine George Cross 2 (Trpcevski 2), South Melbourne Hellas 6 (Plaza 2, Petersen, Nikolakopoulos 2, Tiktikakis) Northcote City 1 (Constantinou), Altona Gate 2 (Velkovski, Strenjak) Preston Makedonia 3 (Georgopoulos, Stojcevski, Vasilevski), Adelaide City 2 (Atsikbasis, Caruso) Brighton 0, Caulfield City 1 (Alikakos) South Melbourne Hellas Colts 1 (own goal), Geelong City 0 Springvale City 6 (Grella 3, Piemonte, Cacciotti, McClenaghan).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Adelaide City	21	18	1	2	82	21	37
Sunshine GC	21	14	4	3	51	25	32
SMH	21	13	4	4	57	28	30
Preston Mak	21	12	4	5	60	28	28
Melb. Croatia	21	12	3	6	60	35	27
Heidelberg	21	10	5	6	45	35	25
Altona Gate	21	10	2	9	44	39	22
Caulfield	21	7	5	9	29	36	19
Geelong City	21	6	3	12	33	63	15
SMHC	21	5	4	12	23	53	14
MC Colts	21	6	2	13	31	62	14
Northcote City	21	5	2	14	38	71	12
Springvale	21	3	5	13	26	65	11
Brighton	21	3	2	16	18	46	8

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Carlo Talladira Adelaide City 15, Michael Brooks Adelaide City 15, Peter Nikolakopoulos South Melbourne Hellas 15, Nick Georgopoulos Preston Makedonia 14, Richard Milanovic Melbourne Croatia 13, Jani Suric Melbourne Croatia 13, Ross Aloisi Adelaide City 12, George Alikakos Caulfield City 12, Con Boutsianis South Melbourne Hellas 11, Mitchell Cattermole Sunshine George Cross 11, Stavros Mangos Heidelberg United 10.

— ROY HAY

National Youth League South

Draw at Somers Street

BY ROY HAY

MELBOURNE Croatia and Heidelberg United drew 1-1 in their match in Round 21 of the National Youth League (Southern Division) on Saturday, February 23 at Somers Street.



Phew! The going's hot! George Vasicevski (Preston Makedonia) at left and Geelong City's Michael Spasevski in a National Youth League Southern Division Challenge. Photo by BRUCE LONG (courtesy of GEELONG ADVERTISER).

In a very even match, which was played in a good spirit, the goals came within six minutes of each other in the second half.

Richard Milanovic, Croatia's best on the day, put his team ahead in 59 minutes, but Heidelberg fought back quickly and Stavros Mangos equalised.

In the rest of the round played on Sunday, February 24, the highlight was the Macedonian derby at Paisley Reserve, where Altona Gate lost 3-2 in a thriller against Preston Makedonia.

Robert Stojcevski opened the scoring for Makedonia against his old club with a twenty metre drive, then Nick Georgopoulos scored with a header following a corner-kick.

Henry Velkovski got the goal of the game diving between two players to drive the ball home, which made it 1-2 at the break.

Danny Strenjak of Altona Gate and George Vasilevski of Makedonia scored in the second half.

South Melbourne Hellas had an overwhelming 6-1 win over Northcote City at Middle Park, with two goals each to Vince de la Plaza and Peter Nikolakopoulos, who now joins the leading scorers on 15.

Mike Petersen got one in his first match for some time and Peter Tiktikakis got the other. Jim Constantinou scored for Northcote from the spot.

Sunshine George Cross had a 2-0 win over Melbourne Croatia thanks to Vasco Trpcevski who scored both

goals. Colts had a couple of chances in the first half, but overall Georgie just proved too strong.

Springvale City, with former Socceroo Jimmy Rooney orchestrating things, roomed home for its biggest win of the season — 6-0 — against Geelong City at Brintons Soccer Club.

Pasquale Grella had a great hat-trick and Darren McClenaghan, Robert Piemonte and Benny Cacciotti got on the score sheet.

If both teams had taken their chances the score could have been in double figures in the heat.

There was lots of excitement at Princes Park, where Caulfield City and South Melbourne Hellas Colts drew one-all.

Colts got an early break when Jason Taliadoros chipped his own keeper but George Alikakos equalised from the penalty spot just before the interval.

Referee Charlie Santa-Isabel then twisted his ankle in a sprinkler hole and had to be replaced by Mark Stumpf.

In the top versus bottom match at the Hindmarsh Stadium, Brighton held Adelaide City goalless till the last fifteen minutes, then the heat began to tell and George Atsikbasis and Mario Caruso scored for City.

The Brighton lads deserve lots of credit for a very gutsy fight, most of which was conducted on the edge of their own penalty area.

Atsikbasis and Daniel Sabatino, two of Adelaide's 15-year-olds, showed up very well in their first full games.

ST GEORGE vs ADELAIDE CITY



Sunday, March 3

7pm

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Saints march strongly on to 5,300 players

THE St George District Soccer Association was launched in 1924, thanks to the enthusiasm of a small number of enthusiasts, determined to see soccer grow in the district.

Prominent amongst the administrators in Saint's early years was secretary E.H. Coleman.

ASW is able to carry on the St George District story from 1974, as unfortunately the copy for the earlier developmental years has been lost.

And with it went a picture of H.G. Reid, a St George official who became president of the NSW Soccer Football Association in 1941.

Prominent in the Association's affairs for many years was John Hedison, who served as both secretary and president.

Currently he is chairman of the board of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation Ltd.

From here we continue the St George saga:

In 1974, we celebrated the 50th year of the Association.

At the end of the season, a Presentation Night was held which was a huge success.

A special All-Age Competition was held to commemorate the 50 years and 42 teams took part on a K.O. basis.

Sans Souci won the prize which capped a wonderful year for this team which also won the All-Age: local Competition, the Amateur Cup and then Champion of Champions.

1975, 23 clubs affiliated representing 305 teams and 3,360 players which was a record for the Association.

For the first time the Under 6 Competition was conducted on a trial basis with only eight players a side and played on Minifields with scaled down goalposts.

The Competition was first past the post and was considered a successful move and retained for coming seasons.

It is now a non-competition series of games. 1975 also saw the formation of the St George Referee's Association as a separate body.

1976 Bill Dobson took over the Presidency and work on the Peakhurst Park project which had been in the doldrums was restarted and the light pole erected.

1977, a great deal of work was completed on the Peakhurst Park project and up to that point \$30,000 had been spent on the development of the ground. The season saw a further expansion of the Association with a record number of teams — 338.

1978 saw 34 Clubs, 341 teams and 5,400 players and it is interesting to note the comparison with 1968 when we



John Hedison

had 17 Clubs, 207 teams and 2,485 players.

In 1979 the format of meetings was altered and an elected Executive Committee carried out all affairs of the Association in relation to the Competition.

The delegates forming the Management Committee only met fortnightly to review the decision of the Executive and to decide on financial matters.

In all, there were 45 grades, 35 Clubs and 5,303 players. 1979 also saw the introduction of the All-Age Premier League Competition.

The 1986 season was one of great loss and great achievement.

The loss of Sid Tanner was a great blow to the Association.

In memory of Sid Tanner every Queen's Birthday weekend a Tournament is held at Peakhurst Park for players U11.

Teams come from as far as Dubbo, Gosford as well as teams from Metropolitan area to participate. The Tournament is held over two days Sunday and Monday and I'm sure that it is watched over very proudly by Sid.

The 1980 season was also one of great achievement, the Under 14 Youth League team carried all before them and in addition six Club teams reached the finals of the Champion of Champions which, in itself, was a remarkable achievement.

The Peakhurst Park project reached finality in that year, with the assistance of a grant from the State Government, a dressing room complex was completed.

A special ceremony combining the end of the season presentations with the opening of the ground was held and Mrs Tanner unveiled a plaque on the building in commemoration of her late husband.

1980: 371 teams and 5,279 players were registered.

That year saw the full use of the Peakhurst Park ground.

After all these years the dream of Sid Tanner was finally achieved.

Teams from St George, playing on their own ground, fenced, floodlit for night matches and with a Kiosk and Dressing Rooms.

1988 the Association had 27 Clubs, 340 teams and 4,716 players (6-7 age 741 / 8-16 age 2,569 /

17-AA 1,262 / Ladies 144).

St George Association ran their own competition for female players and this proved successful, in the past we have joined with other Associations.

The 13 and 14 representative teams both finished the season in first place, the 14s went on to win the Metropolitan and State Championships. The 13s lost their semi-final and the 11s finished in third position and went on to finish runners-up in the State Championships.

The Tanner's Tournament was again very successful with Canterbury winning the Cup and Sutherland being the Runners-up.

The Consolation Cup was won by Nepean and Bankstown as runners-up.

Our only Champion of Champion winner was Kingsgrove Olympians 17s team.

1989 was perhaps the worst soccer season ever, with nature almost being the outright winner.

We had so much rain we could play only one round of the competition and we had to also transfer the Tanner Tournament to October.

Our numbers were down on 1989 (27 Clubs, 338 teams with 4,440 players), but considering the bad start with the weather it was no wonder, the damage the weather caused this season with players numbers and morale will take a number of years to rectify.

The Tanner Tournament was again won by Canterbury with Southern & Eastern being the runners up. The Consolation Cup was won by Bankstown, runners up Blacktown.

A new format was used with the Dinner this year with the Executive doing the catering and opting to hold it in a marque at Peakhurst Park.

Again the Tournament was played in good spirit and sportsmanship by all teams and a very rewarding weekend was had by all involved.

The future of St George Soccer Association is looking good despite the falling numbers.

This is due, unfortunately to our Association being in an older area with a declining young age group, as well the 1989 "wet season".

But if trends continue, an upturn is assured and with the knowledge and experience of the Association.

Soccer will continue to be the most played Junior Sport not only in St George, but Australia.



With the football is Ritchie Alagich, a member of the well known soccer family. He came across from Adelaide to train at St George's Sydney Academy of Soccer. A Port Adelaide player and South Australian junior representative, he has been invited back to trial at the end of the year. Pictured are l to r: Richard Alagich, technical director SAS, Academy and St George NSL coach Frank Arok, Ritchie Alagich, and head goalkeeper coach Fred Wall.

Geelong Advertiser Cup

BY ROY HAY

NORTH Geelong won the 1991 Geelong Advertiser Cup by beating Corio-Geelong United 3-1 at Myers Reserve on Friday.

This was North's fourth win in Victoria's premier non-Metropolitan competition and the 1,500 spectators saw the Cervinski brothers, Adrian and David, score all three goals in North's triumph.

As one of the two State League Division One teams in Geelong, North Geelong was the pre-tournament favourite and it reached the final with a comfortable 3-1 win over its Division One rival, Bell Park.

Corio-Geelong United from Division Three upset Geelong from Division Two with a Brandon Lakic goal in its semi-final.

Corio-Geelong United had been reduced to 10 men with the sending off of Kevin Innes and his absence was to be important in the final.

North Geelong had the advantage of the wind in the first half of the final and took the lead following a corner-kick after six minutes.

Robert Palmariotti's kick was flicked on by Robert Cosic and teenage striker Adrian Cervinski fired the ball over his shoulder and past keeper Laurie Cicero.

In Corio-Geelong United's most promising reply Daniel Krasic's throw-in set George ven der Chys clear and when he centred the ball Dominic Ipiombata drove it just outside the post.

It seemed that Corio-Geelong United would restrict North to a single goal lead at the break, but in the 43rd minute, another corner kick, this time from player-coach, Branko Culina, created an opening.

Laurie Cicero was caught in no-man's land as David Cervinski came up from the back to power a header into the net.

Neither team made any changes at half-time and Corio-Geelong United was still under pressure as John La Fornara twice had to rob Adrian Cervinski as he raced in on goal.

Brendan Lakic and Robbie Noggler were unable to break clear of the North defence until the 70th minute when Lakic brought out a finger-tip save from Mark Di Gioacchino in the North goal.

Noggler then released substitute Mario Gregorio but his header flew wide.

Noggler's next attempt was an audacious lob from nearly half-way but the keeper got back in time to save.

Adrian Cervinski settled the match when Goran Trogrlic trapped a goal kick and returned it quickly into space for Cervinski to outstrip the defence, round the keeper and score his second and North's third goal.

He finished as equal top scorer in the tournament with Brendan Lakic and George Dimovski of Bell Park.

Sergio di Blasi got a consolation goal for Corio-Geelong United in 86 minutes with a long shot, which proved too powerfully struck for the North keeper.

REGIONAL NEWS

ASW is always keen to publish some stories and pictures from main regional centres throughout Australia.

Publicity officers, here is the chance to make your district wider known in the game.

Address material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

Championships allocated to Central South Coast

AT a recent meeting of the Southern Branch Associations, Eurobodalla Soccer Association on the Central South Coast was selected over the Far South Coast and Southern Tablelands Soccer Associations to host this year's Under 12 State Championships.

The series will be held at Batemans Bay, and this will be the Association's first ever championships.

The Southern Branch Under 12 rep. team was to play their first trial game last weekend, but was called off by the Southern and Eastern Soccer Association.

The Under 11s had a 3-3 draw against the Southern and Eastern Soccer Association in their first trial for the season.

At a recent meeting of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation held in Sydney, Geoff Crawford has been returned as the country director on the board of directors.

Prior to the meeting the three Country Branches met to discuss matters affecting country soccer.

Country Branches will meet again in Sydney in two weeks' time to format the Country Rep. programme and other pressing matters.

DEVELOPING THE GAME!

FROM DAVID LEE

A number of clubs are trying to comply with the Bradley Report requirements, and to gloss up their applications are employing "Development" Officers.

I believe they are misleading themselves and possibly also the Australian Soccer Federation.

Development Officers in other sports hold coaching qualifications so they can go out and develop the game, hold in-service courses for school teachers, Level 0/1 courses for club coaches and elite player programs.

Officials often confuse promotion with development.

Promotion is short term hype: development is long term, ongoing education based on programs.

To get more value for their dollars, clubs

and organisations should insist on Development Officers being accredited; then they can do both jobs.

It must be a worrying time for all those amateur players who contributed a dollar levy to see the "powers that be," lose \$90,000 on two international games.

Actually enough money to afford two full-time Regional Coaches in NSW for one year.

It is certainly a case of "comparing the value."

And, whilst on the subject of international, at Parramatta Stadium there were some worrying features in the Australian side against Czechoslovakia.

The two strikers for example did not produce one cross in 90 minutes against a side that was, technically and tactically, inferior to Moscow Torpedo.

1991 is Education Year for Rooball

KEITH GILMOUR INTERVIEWS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER STEVE DARBY ABOUT THE EXCITING NEW GAME OF ROOBALL.

Q. WHAT IS ROOBALL?

A. Rooball is the new modified soccer game which will take the place of mini-soccer. The ASF decided that it was crazy, in both an economic and of more importance a developmental sense, to have the myriad of mini-soccer versions being played. This will be the sole modified game to be played throughout Australia.

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY ECONOMIC?

A. Royalties from the sale of Rooball kits will be channelled back into developmental initiatives for kids. This may include poster, stickers or even funding Socceroos to visit country areas. I give my personal word that any profit from Rooball will not be wasted and all accounts will be fully audited and available for inspection. We can't rely on charity, we must follow the lead of cricket ie; "Kanga" and make our own money which goes back into the system to help kids.

Q. HOW IS THE GAME DIFFERENT FROM MINI-SOCCER?

A. In essence it is a similar game, but it is much simpler and with less rules. We have tried to make it as near to street or yard soccer as possible. Also a minimum of equipment is needed.

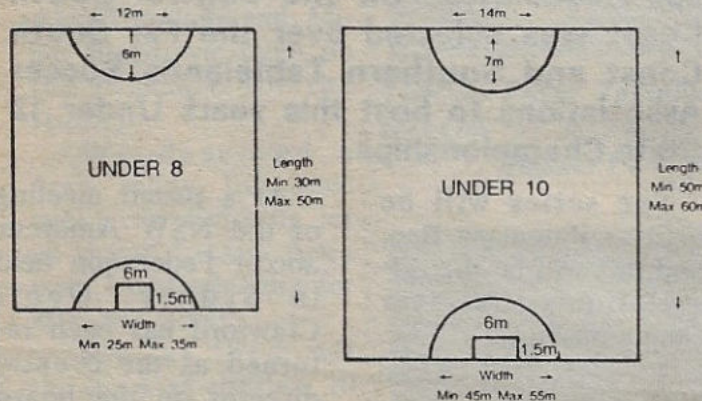


STEVE DARBY

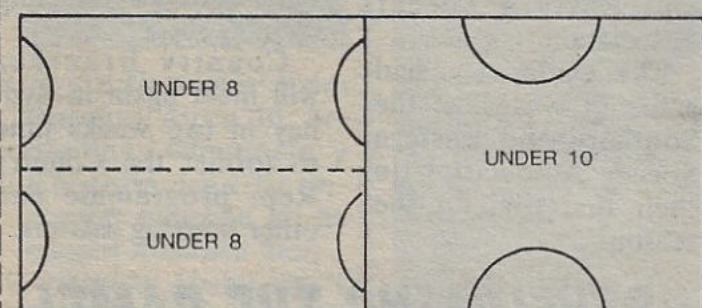
The aim of the game in Roo-Ball is the same as senior soccer. To score in your opponents goal.

THE PITCH

To ensure that Roo-Ball can be easily played and very few special requirements are needed, the dimensions of a Roo-Ball pitch can easily fit onto a normal soccer pitch. However Roo-Ball can be played on any field or open area.



The diagram below shows how 3 Roo-Ball games can be played on 1 normal soccer pitch. This means that a minimum of 42 players can be actively involved in playing soccer.



Q. WHAT ABOUT THE AREAS WHICH STILL PLAY 11 A SIDE FOR EIGHT-YEAR OLDS?

A. I cannot believe that this still goes on in 1991! The elite countries in Europe, our top NSL coaches, and all education authorities are advocating modified sports. The other major codes all have compulsory modified games. I'd reverse the question, what right have adults to impose their values on young kids when all educated thought points to the implementation of modified games. Have you ever seen how ludicrous the game looks when your kids play on a full size pitch? Many kids don't even get one kick.



EQUIPMENT

All you need to play Roo-Ball is a soccer ball and some markers. If your club has portable small sided goals, that is a bonus. If Roo Ball is played without portable goals then corner posts or markers may be used as goals. The referee needs a whistle and the players must wear a similar shirt so you can see which team you are on. The basic Roo-Ball equipment pack is enough to start and you can build on it as you progress. Players should however be encouraged to wear shin pads.

HOW MANY ARE THERE IN A ROO-BALL TEAM?

Under 8 = Six players including a goal keeper
Under 10 = Nine players including a goal keeper

Each team can have up to 3 interchange players. Interchanging is encouraged to give everybody equal time and a chance for a supportive coach to help a young player.

It is encouraged that teams are either divided into equal age groups or skill groups and if necessary size.

The aim of Roo Ball is to have a fair game where everyone gets an equal share of kicking the ball, coaches are encouraged to rotate players so they don't think of themselves as defenders or goalkeepers but as Soccer Roo-Ball Players.

ROO-BALL RULES

The Ball
Under 8 = A size 3
Under 10 = A size 4

Duration of the Game
Under 8 = 2 x 15 mins
Under 10 = 2 x 25 mins

FREE KICKS

All free kicks are indirect (a goal cannot be scored unless another player touches it). All opposing players must be at least 6m from the ball.

PENALTIES

Penalties are given for fouls committed in the semi-circle. The kick is taken from the edge of the semi-circle at the centre.

GOAL KICKS

Goal kicks are taken from anywhere in the semi circle.

CORNERS

Corners are taken as in a senior game with the opposition being 6m from the ball.

THROW INS

As this is often a difficult skill for a young player to learn, the referee must allow a young player at least 2 attempts to throw the ball in and if necessary show them the correct method.

Q. WHAT IS THE TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION?

A. It would seem naive to try for an overnight change as our communication channels aren't that quick. The game is now ASF policy, ratified by the commissioners. 1991 will be an education year, 1992 the game will be started all over Australia and 1993 it will be Rooball and nothing else. We are now seeing the positive realities of the Bradley Report.

Q. WHAT IS CRAIG JOHNSTONE'S INVOLVEMENT?

A. Craig is the figurehead of the campaign, even the Kangaroo looks like him. Craig had a great deal to do with the development of the game. He not only is the figurehead but he actively supports the philosophy of the game. The philosophy being that the kids get as many kicks of the ball as possible, get to love the ball and have fun.

Q. WHO ELSE SUPPORTS THE GAME?

A. Eddie Thomson, Les Scheinflug, Mike Wells, State Directors, Robert Wheatley, Jeff Olver, players such as Andrew Bernal, Alex McPherson, Alan Davidson, Paul Wade, Gary Phillips, and female Socceroos, are just a few to publicly support the game. We must be doing something right.

Q. WHY NO CUPS OR TABLES?

A. I strongly believe that the instinct of the competition is intrinsic into any game that kids play, and I fully encourage competition. What I don't support is *ugly parents* abusing eight-year-olds and their coaches so that cups can be won. There is enough pressure on the kids just playing without more artificial adult stimulated competition. Even some of the old-timers who criticise today's game always say that the kids don't "play" enough like they did in the streets. This could be the answer.

Young Roos defeat Victoria

BY GREG BLAKE

THE Young Socceroos had a decisive 3-1 victory over a Victorian XI in a friendly match at Olympic Park in Melbourne last Wednesday.

A double strike by Marconi's David Seal, with goals on either side of half time, and a third goal from club-mate Steve Corica late in the match sealed an emphatic victory for the green and gold youngsters.

Victoria, with a side based on local Premier League players only, was never in contention against a young Aussie side which looked fit, sharp and extremely talented.

Victoria took a surprise lead after just 10 minutes through former

NSL midfielder Anthony Grbac.

David Klepac squared to Sean Lane and Lane's shot was parried into the path of Grbac who scored from close range.

The young Aussies however, soon settled into their stride with Robert Stanton of Sydney Croatia, Sunshine's Lorenz Kindtner and Marconi's Steve Corica blitting their opponents in the midfield duels.

Kris Trajanovski and Corica both went desperately close to putting the young Aussies ahead before David Seal, Marconi's NSL sharpshooter, put Australia in front nine minutes from half time.

Kindtner was the architect with a glorious

through ball and Seal, unmarked and on the run, had no trouble finishing with lethal efficiency.

Nine minutes after half time Kindtner sent Stanton running away down the right and his well timed cutback allowed Seal in to slam home his second goal of the evening.

Young Socceroos 3 (Seal 36,54, Corica 62) Victoria 1 (Grbac 10).

AUSTRALIA: Schwarzer, Spasevski, Stojcevic, Popovic, Okon, Stanton, Maloney (Poric 60), Kindtner, Trajanovski, Seal, Corica.

VICTORIA: Brian, Opasinis (Dobson 64), Doyle, Krajacic, Kotzamichalis (Valentic 64), Brack, Brimmer, Grbac, Lane, Smith (Retre 64, Klepac Wilson 64).

REFEREE: C. Fraser.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor should be concise, and in all possible cases contain not more than a maximum of 150 words.

Address them to Australian Soccer Weekly, PO Box 406 Broadway, NSW, 2007.

TV comments

I watched Melita v Preston on ABC-TV's The Big Match, and noted commentator Mike Hill twice criticising referee J Santa Isabel for handing yellow cards to two Preston players.

At the end of the game John Kosmina commented unfavourably on its quality.

I believe some of his comment was most unnecessary, and advise him to quickly learn what should be said.

Charles Dingli
26 Potter St,
Old Toongabbie 2146.

Canberra refereeing

For a number of years it has been alleged that the AIS receive preferential treatment from referees in Canberra.

Every team that comes back from the national capital seems to complain about the treatment handed out by the men in control of the AIS matches.

Last weekend we travelled to Bruce Stadium for the AIS — Sydney Academy of Soccer deferred match, and we believe what promised to be a great match was partly destroyed by the refereeing performances.

The best you could say was that they were inconsistent, but apparently in favour of the AIS.

Last Sunday there were many incidents that went unchecked but the main questionable incident was in the first half when an AIS defender brought down a SAS player, the AIS player was the last line of defence — he only received a yellow card, when we believe it

should have been red.

In the second half a SAS player, as the last line of defence, brought down an AIS player in similar fashion, but he received a red card.

The above incidents, we have on video tape along with many other questionable decisions.

We believe this problem needs airing as it is providing to be an embarrassment.

concerned parents of the Sydney Academy of Soccer

Badge exchange wanted

My name is Joost Uyen and I live in Mierlo (Netherlands).

I'm a Dutch soccer fan. I also collect metal official badges from clubs all over the world.

Is there among your readers someone who would like to correspond and exchange badges? I can send badges from Holland.

I really would be very pleased!

Joost Uyen
DeLenberg 7
5731 ct Mierlo (N.B)
Netherlands

Country Matches

I hope you can provide me with details of various competitions, cups, tournaments, knockouts etc to be played throughout the 1991 season.

Our club's position is as follows: being involved in a competition that is only played every second weekend, that leaves us with no competition basically for half the season.

We hope to fill the gaps by playing in tournaments, knockouts, cups etc offered by various associations or sponsors. These would be played over one weekend or completed within one day.

We would basically be confined to NSW, ACT and possibly Victoria as we are located

in south-west NSW.

Ross Panebianco, Secretary, Eastside Football Club, P.O. Box 146, Griffith NSW 2680.

No doubt NSW Amateur Federation and its affiliates and ACT and Victoria will do everything possible to help. — Ed.

Campbell sacking

I refer to the mysterious resignation of Donald Campbell as coach of Adelaide Croatia, a move which I feel sure was initiated by lack of support for him from within the club.

Last season this club finished one point off the league title, won both the Ampol and PGH Federation Cups, and was runner-up in the West End and Coca-Cola Cups.

More important this man brought the club through to becoming a serious NSL contender.

Through his diplomacy, the club shook off its old image of fiery players and unruly supporters, and became one of highly skilled, entertaining players with very enthusiastic but well behaved supporters.

Why have they now destroyed such an ideal foundation after only two matches?

And why does a dedicated, knowledgeable person such as Campbell get his head on the chopping block as soon as a few influential supporters get restless?

Was he too successful, too honest in his dealings or was he too diplomatic?

Or maybe did the supporters simply want someone else at the helm, regardless of anything?

To the powers that be — I believe you have the job of ensuring that commonsense is applied to developing soccer in South Australia.

It's a great game — don't kill it!

Les Carter
Port Adelaide SA 5015

German clubs help ease Soviet hunger

AT least 15 First Division and six Second Division clubs of the German Bundesliga, as well as thousands of fans, have been rushing aid to help the USSR.



Juventus' German star Thomas Hassler — his countrymen are falling over themselves to assist underfed Soviets.

Substantial amounts raised from various sporting events and direct collections, were paid into a relief fund, and thousands of food parcels have been sent or are being prepared for dispatch to the stricken population.

Despressing reports and TV pictures showing the ever-lengthening queues for food outside state shops, often with empty shelves, and the

hardship experienced by millions of ordinary people in Soviet cities, have stirred the conscience of the German nation.

And the football clubs were not slow to respond.

Benefit

The country's most successful and richest outfit, Bayern Munich, organised a benefit match by inviting the Soviet national team to play in the Olympic stadium.

The game was shown live on German TV, which paid \$250,000. Commercial firms using the 30 hoardings for perimeter advertising contributed an extra \$20,000 each.

Lufthansa and Aeroflot flew the Soviet internationals free of charge, while the Hotel Sheraton in Munich provided free accommodation.

The German FA (DFB) and the Olympic stadium authorities waived any fees. All the proceeds were passed on.

The event raised 1.24 million marks over \$1 million.

The guests included German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who paid £10 for his ticket.

Curiously enough the referee was the other

Helmut Kohl, the Austrian well known from the World Cup.

Despite temperatures well below freezing point, 8,000 fans turned up and saw a 1-1 draw.

But the result did not matter.

The size of the financial contribution did.

Of the other clubs, VfB Stuttgart were due to play Dynamo Kiev,

while balls, jerseys and other souvenirs were sold.

Bayer Leverkusen organised a benefit match against the USSR 1989 champions Spartak Moscow (currently European Champions' Cup quarter-finalists), with the help of sponsors, and guaranteed a profit of at least \$80,000.

Massive

Koln fans organised a massive collection, while the club and the local Red Cross also chipped in.

The money went to Volgograd, a city twinned with Cologne.

Hamburger SV raised \$13,000 from a match between entertainment personalities, Werder Bremen arranged the delivery of food parcels to 500 addresses in Moscow, and all 18 junior teams at Sankt Pauli made up 38 parcels.

Kaiserslautern and Borussia Dortmund devised collections outside their grounds, Bayer Uerdingen helped a local radio station with a convoy with groceries.

Second Division Preussen Munster had an excess charge of \$1.00 on admission tickets for one match. The amount obtained will be doubled by the club.

The team also raised cash from an autograph hour, sending the proceeds to Munster's twin city, Rjasan.

This praiseworthy action is intended as a "Thank You" to Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, whose efforts were instrumental in reuniting East and West Germany politically.

Chancellor Kohl called the enterprise "a sign of human solidarity with suffering people."

Football and the Gulf War

THE Gulf War has affected football in several respects.

As a result of the conflict:

- The Tunisia v Sweden international in Tunis was cancelled;

- Also postponed was the Saudi Arabia v USA game in Riyadh;

- The Romanian Olympic team cancelled its Israeli tour;

- Former Austrian supremo Josef Hickersberger declined to coach a club side in the United Arab Emirates;

- Ex-USSR coach Valery Lobanovski quit his job as UAE national team boss to

return to the Ukraine;

- Most of the foreign players operating in Israel have gone home;

FIFA's official policy, however, is one of "wait and see" and there are no plans to curtail upcoming Olympic qualifiers.

UEFA, the body that runs European soccer, also sees no reason to postpone any Euro-92 qualifiers at this stage, though some countries may be reluctant to send their teams to Turkey and to Cyprus, the closest to the war zone.



Juventus' "Toto" Schillaci prostrate at the feet of Genoa's Signorini — a symbol of Juve's 1-0 loss to Genoa a few weeks back.

TAYLOR DROPS A BOMBSHELL

ENGLAND manager Graham Taylor dropped a bombshell on the nation's over-worked league clubs by proposing regular monthly internationals to stop the rust settling.

After watching England produce a disciplined but distinctly unexciting performance against Cameroon, Taylor said:

"The three-month break has taught me how necessary it is to get back in action in February.

"In fact, there must be some justification for having an international game every month.

"If we had played a game already I think we could have shown more authority. Instead we showed rustiness."

With English clubs



GRAHAM TAYLOR

already facing the busiest League and Cup schedule of any European country — some of the England team had played a dozen games in six weeks — Taylor's proposal will come as a blow to club managers.

England captain Bryan Robson is a case in point.

Robson made his return to the national side for the first time

since the World Cup despite being Manchester United's only fit first-choice midfielder.

In the event Robson was taken off 20 minutes from time once England's 2-0 victory over Cameroon looked sewn up.

But United would probably have preferred not to see its injury-prone star risk himself of his country at all.

DANUT NICKED

ROMANIAN international Danut Lupu, who joined Panathinaikos from Dynamo Bucharest this season, has been arrested in connection with a series of burglaries.

Lupu was suspected of being the ringleader of a gang who broke into homes and shops and stole mainly furs in the Greek capital.

Police said the Panathinaikos club had helped them in their investigations and other footballers might be charged.



Emilio Butragueno (right) up against the Albanian defence when Spain crushed Albania 9-0 in a Euro-92 Group 1 qualifier. Spain did not fare so well against France last Wednesday when beaten 3-1 in Paris.

Crucial French Euro-92 win

FRANCE beat Spain 3-1 in their Group 1 Euro-92 qualifier in Paris last Wednesday to virtually ensure them a place in next year's finals in Sweden.

With the score locked at 1-1 after Jose Maria Bakero had scored for Spain in the 11th minute and Franck Sauzee's equaliser in the 15th, marksman extraordinaire Jean-Pierre Papin turned the match in the 58th minute with a breathtakingly impossible goal.

The Marseille striker, underlining his claim to be the greatest scorer in soccer today, hit an unstoppable bicycle kick from a Manuel Amoros cross which came behind him at shoulder height.

Laurent Blanc made sure of the victory with a third French goal in the 77th minute.

France have now won 11 and drawn the other three of their 14 internationals in the past two years and have the longest unbeaten run of all the European nations.

France's next game is at home against Albania on March 30 but Spain don't play again until September 25, against Iceland at Reykjavik.

In a Group 6 match in Porto, Portugal, as expected, outclassed Malta to the tune of 5-0 with goals from Rui Aguas, Jose Leal, Vitor Paneira (penalty), Charles Scerri (own goal) and Jorge Cadete.

Portugal now lead

Group 6 with seven points from five matches, but Holland and Greece have two games in hand.

• In a friendly game last week, Argentina beat Hungary 2-0 at Rosario



Around the World

- Polish international striker Roman Kosecki has joined Turkish club Galatasaray.
- Belgian side Beerschot have a new coach: the Finn Matti Kuusela, who has just led HJK Helsinki to the Finish title.
- Italy and Belgium played a 0-0 draw in the southern Italian city of Terni on February 13.
- Steaua Bucharest have sacked their coach, Costica Stefanescu. His replacement at the helm of the ailing Romanian club is inexperienced 51-year-old Bujar Halmageanu.
- Dinamo Bucharest's Romanian international defender Mircea Rednic has joined the mass exodus of players leaving the country. He has joined Turkey's Bursaspor.
- Joao Alvez, the former Boavista coach, has become Guimaraes' third coach this season as Portugal's coaching musical chairs continue. No less than 13 coaches have been sacked since the start of the First Division season five months ago.
- Lazio have signed young Chilean midfielder Fabian Estay from Universidad Catolica for \$2 million. As is the case in Italy, Estay will be loaned to a less glamorous club for at least 12 months.

OLYMPIAKOS BAN

OLYMPIAKOS of Greece will be banned for a season the next time they qualify for a European club competition.



The suspension, handed out by the European Football Union (UEFA) is a heavier punishment for crowd trouble than the Greek club originally received.

Olympiakos had been ordered by UEFA's control and disciplinary committee to play their next two

home ties behind closed doors because of serious crowd disturbances after a European Cup Winners' Cup second round first leg tie against Sampdoria of Italy on October 24.

An appeal by the Greek club was heard during a four-hour meeting of UEFA's appeals board which took evidence from the match referee, its observer and an official from the Greek side before giving their decision.

The board said that in view of the repeated series of disturbances throughout and after the match, it was doubtful if the security of visiting teams could be guaranteed even if matches were played without the public present.

The board said it had been established that missiles were repeatedly thrown on to the pitch and Sampdoria's Brazilian ace Cerezo was injured by a coin.

It could not accept the appealing club's claim that it was impossible to prevent the incidents.

Tapie stays in charge

MARSEILLE president Bernard Tapie has decided to stay on as Marseille president despite a one-year ban which rules him out of official soccer activities.

Tapie has decided "to retain his duties as president and to continue to assume all of his responsibilities," the club said in a statement.

Marseille captain Jean-Pierre Papin told reporters after the announcement that players were calling off a planned strike.

A disciplinary committee had banned millionaire Tapie for 12 months, the last four of which were suspended, for "damaging sporting morale and insulting referees."

He was also banned from the touchline and some dressing rooms at matches.

The ban provoked demonstrations by fans in Marseille, who were afraid the president might quit the club, and provoked the threat of a strike in his support by the team's players.

But French Football Federation chief Jean Fournet-Fayard said that the ban did not prevent Tapie from continuing to control the club.

"There is nothing to stop him administering his club and being its president," Fournet-Fayard told the soccer weekly "France Football".

He also indicated the penalties on Tapie were not as restrictive as first believed.

He said the match ban involved only the referee's and opposition dressing rooms.



JAPANESE NATIONAL LEAGUE

TEN teams have been selected to join Japan's first professional league.

Tadao Murata, managing director of the Football Association of Japan, said: "We studied for four years before making the selection."

"The league will start in the (northern) autumn of 1992 or the spring of 1993 with 36 games scheduled a year."

One requirement was that a team have at least a 15,000-seat stadium, he said.

Many of the 10 belonged to the Japan League, made up of teams fielded by major companies.

The Nissan Motor Co. team, the league's 1989-90 champion, is one of the 10.



Marseille captain Jean-Pierre Papin — called off his team's proposed sympathy strike in support of banned president Bernard Tapie.

Dalglish quits

BRITISH soccer was in shock on Saturday following the resignation of top British manager Kenny Dalglish.

Dalglish, announced his retirement as Liverpool boss late on Friday.

He said "pressure" had led to his decision.

"The biggest problem was the pressure I was putting myself under in my desire to be successful," Dalglish said. "I felt it would be wrong to mislead everybody into thinking everything was fine with myself."

Dalglish, thought to be earning more than \$A500,000 a year at the top English club, said there was no animosity between himself and Liverpool.

A teary Dalglish said at a press conference: "This is something I felt was right."

"I've been involved in football since I was 17 — for 20 years I've been with the two most successful clubs in Britain."

"It is just really a result of 20 years active involvement in football that Kenny Dalglish the person has pushed himself to the limit."

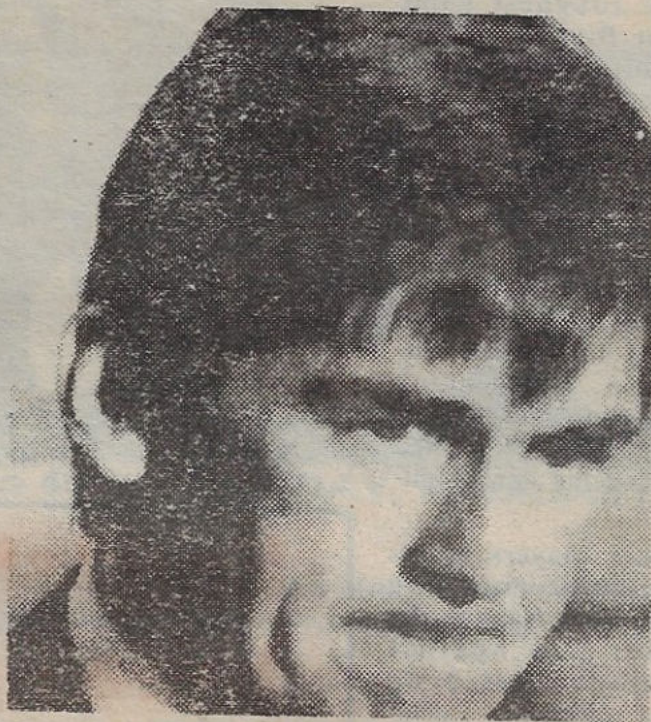
Dalglish — a former Scottish striker who played a record 102 times for his country — joined Liverpool as a player from Glasgow Celtic in 1977 in a \$1 million transfer deal.

He said he felt both relieved and saddened by his resignation.

"The worst decision I could have come to was not to make a decision," said Dalglish.

"I can't have had any better times anywhere else — it's a mixture of both really. But I think for me it was the right thing to do."

Liverpool coach Ronnie Moran has taken over as caretaker manager of the famous club.



KENNY DALGLISH

Scotland-bound?

TWO of Europe's leading clubs and Scotland's 'Auld Firm' Glasgow Rangers and Celtic will be in with bids for former Liverpool boss Kenny Dalglish now a free agent.

Rangers previously made a bid for Dalglish at the start of the season to allow present boss Graeme Souness move upstairs to take an executive-director position with the Ibrox club.

Celtic want him to replace present manager Billy McNeill who looks certain to part company with them at the end of the season.

Dalglish is a former Celtic player who won every honor with the club during his time there.

However he has always been a dyed in the wool Rangers fan and is a close friend of Souness, his former teammate at Anfield.

Arsenal leap to the top

ENGLISH champions Liverpool, still reeling from the shock resignation of manager Kenny Dalglish, suffered another body blow Saturday when losing 3-1 at Luton to surrender the First Division leadership to Arsenal.

Arsenal crushed third-placed Crystal Palace 4-0 to take over at the top on goal difference and turn the title battle into a two-horse race.

Dalglish stunned Liverpool when he resigned on Friday, ending a six-year managerial reign in which he led the club to three league championships and two FA Cup wins.

Caretaker manager Ronnie Moran saw his charges take a 16th-minute lead through a Jan Molby penalty on Luton's plastic pitch, where Liverpool have not won since October 1987.

But goals early in the second half from Northern Ireland international Kingsley Black and Iain Dowie put relegation-threatened Luton ahead.

Dowie added a third 10 minutes from time to seal his side's first league win this year.

Arsenal had a much easier ride against Palace, taking the lead after just three minutes through defender David O'Leary and going 2-0

up four minutes before half-time with a goal by Paul Merson.

Strikers Alan Smith and Kevin Campbell scored twice within a minute on the hour to complete the rout.

Molby got Liverpool off to a good start by converting a penalty awarded after Luton defender Julian James handled a Steve Nicol cross.

Liverpool were without regular goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, victim of a stomach bug, and Mike Hooper stepped in for his first league appearance for the champions this season.

But Liverpool, who drew 4-4 at Everton in an FA Cup fifth round replay on Wednesday, looked shaky in defence on a surface they clearly disliked.

Luton should have equalised within a minute of going behind but Dowie failed to apply the finishing touch to an inviting cross from Black.

Danish striker Lars Elstrup did put the ball in the Liverpool net 10 minutes later but his



DAVID O'LEARY — scored a vital goal for Arsenal.

effort was ruled offside.

But Black finally put Luton level when he headed home Dowie's cross in the 47th minute.

Just seven minutes

later Dowie hit a shot past Hooper after his first attempt struck a colleague and landed back at his feet.

Dowie then dashed any hopes of Liverpool salvaging a point with his second.

Arsenal, who pipped Liverpool for the title two seasons ago, fielded three central defenders against Crystal Palace at Highbury to help contain prolific Palace strikers Mark Bright and Ian Wright.

But ironically it was Republic of Ireland international O'Leary, part of the defensive trio, who gave them an early lead following a corner.

Merson took advantage of an error by Palace defender Eric Young to add the second and Smith, with his 17th goal of the season, and youngster Campbell underlined the difference in class between the two sides.

Palace, last season's FA Cup finalists, clearly missed injured defender Andy Thorn and now find themselves five points adrift of the two leaders having played a game more.

Wimbledon thumped London rivals Tottenham 5-1 while relegation strugglers Sheffield United pulled off a surprise 2-1 win at Everton thanks to a last minute goal from Brian Marwood.

Tottenham were without England midfielder Paul Gascoigne, currently nursing a groin injury which is expected to need surgery once the season is over.

Wimbledon, who moved above Tottenham into sixth place, underlined their superiority with three goals in the last 11 minutes.

In Scotland, Glasgow Rangers' hopes of a League and Cup double remained alive after they drubbed Second Division Cowdenbeath 5-0 in the fourth round of the Scottish Cup.

BARNES PONDERES FUTURE

LIVERPOOL and England star John Barnes has revealed he is wrestling with the toughest decision of his career whether to quit Anfield for a top European club at the end of the season.

"Playing on the continent would make me a better player but there are only half a dozen clubs that I would consider joining," the 27 year-old winger said.

Barnes, whose current contract runs out in mid year, said he had always wanted to play in continental Europe and he would delay any decision until the last moment.

Meanwhile he is considering Liverpool's new contract offer.

"It's the main contract of my footballing career and I owe it to myself to see what's

available," he continued.

"This new contract will take me through until I'm 31, perhaps no-one would be interested in me then."

Barnes said as far as he was aware, Liverpool had not been approached by any other

club.

He said he would prefer warmer countries such as France, Spain or Italy over colder ones like Germany.

"Let me put it this way — Dinamo Kiev are a good team but I'm not going there," he said.



JOHN BARNES

England boss slams Venglos

ENGLAND manager Graham Taylor has accused his old club Aston Villa of "standing still" under the management of Czechoslovak Jozef Venglos.

Taylor, who left Villa to take up the English job after last year's World Cup finals, said the appointment of a foreigner had delayed vital re-building for last season's league runners-up.

"One thing that would have happened if I had still been at Villa is the team may have changed somewhat," Taylor said in a radio discussion programme on Saturday.

"What's happened is the team has stood still, and if that happens other people come forward and you go backwards."

"Unfortunately, Venglos has had to come in and take a look at the whole of English football, and it's like me going to Czechoslovakia and saying 'which Czech player should I sign?'"

Villa are currently languishing in mid-table in the First Division, having been knocked out of both domestic cup competitions.

Venglos reacted angrily to Taylor's criticism after Villa drew 2-2 at Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

"That's his opinion, but I have my own. Time is the best judge of these things," he said.

Venglos was also unhappy that Taylor had chosen to make his remarks in public.

"When I was an international manager I criti-



JOE VENGLOS

cised club teams in Czechoslovakia — but always when talking to the managers, not in the press or on the radio."

Venglos said he had attempted to build on Taylor's achievements at Villa.

"I tried to continue what Mr Taylor did, not to hurry change, and I was not ashamed of my team's second-half performance against a good strong side like Forest."

ALAN BALL RESIGNS

ALAN Ball, a mid-field star in England's 1966 World Cup winning side, has resigned as manager of Third Division Stoke City.

His resignation followed a 4-0 defeat at Wigan, the latest in a series of poor results which have virtually ended the club's hopes of promotion.

NON LEAGUE RECORD FEE

WIMBLEDON smashed the English non-league transfer record when the First Division club signed striker Andy Clarke of Barnet for \$870,000.

Clarke 23, who had trials with Manchester United before the start of the season, made his debut against Tottenham on Saturday.

He was discovered playing in Sunday morning football less

than two years ago and had been watched by many First Division clubs this season.

But Wimbledon manager Ray Harford was the first one to make a definite approach for the player.

Barnet play in the Vauxhall Conference and this is the fifth six-figure deal by their manager Barry Fry.

It doubles the previous non-league record fee, set earlier this season by Paul Gridet's \$435,000 move to Barnsley.



Maradona hits back

DIEGO Maradona, under investigation for possible links with a vice ring, says he had been framed.

Maradona, who cal-

"I am calm and also confident. It's a set-up by some girls from whom I have distanced myself. I have never used drugs."

tion for possible links with a drugs and prostitution racket.

He said Maradona denied any wrongdoing.

Despite heavy rain, a smiling but clearly strained Maradona turned up with his lawyer at the sports centre but decided to delay a planned news conference because of an enthusiastic welcome from about 200 fans who occupied the building after evading police.

"I trust in the course of justice even though I am a foreign citizen," Maradona told reporters.

Fans clapped and cheered as Maradona promised to stay with Napoli "until the end".

Maradona has said he wants to leave Napoli before his contract expires in 1993. Italian soccer authorities last month fined him \$85,000 at the request of his club for missing matches and training.

Naples public prosecutor Vittorio Sbordone has said that Maradona was being investigated on suspicion that he may have asked for drugs and prostitutes from the Camorra, the local Mafia.

Eight people with ties to the Camorra have been arrested on charges of drug trafficking and prostitution in Naples after a telephone tapping operation.

Torino's Yugoslav star Skoro evades this tackle from Bari defender Brambati in a recent Italian league match. Torino and Bari are having better than expected seasons.

ZICO QUILTS

VETERAN Brazilian coach Mario Zagalo had to seek police protection after a disappointing performance by his club, Vasco da Gama.

Zagalo, who got World Cup winners' medals with Brazil as a player in 1958 and 1962 and as coach in 1970, received a police escort from the field to protect him from fans angered by Vasco's 2-2 league draw at home to Bragantino.

Football commentators suggested Zagalo could face the sack after the draw against a team who finished the match with nine players.

Vasco are lying third from bottom in the league.

But Zagalo said he had no intention of stepping down and claimed the protest had been set up by a small group of Vasco supporters.

However, 24 hours after the game, Zagalo did resign.

"Before the game, I know they would antagonise me.

"It was all premeditated," he told the Rio daily Jornal do Brasil.

Violent Brazilian start

EIGHT players were sent off in nine matches as the Brazilian soccer championship got off to a violent start.

The roughest game was at Braganca Paulista where three players — Ivair and Biro Biro of Bragantino and Marcelo of Bahia — received red cards for vicious fouls in a 1-1 draw.

Ranieli and Galeano of Palmeiras were both sent off as their team crashed 4-2 against Fluminense. New signing Bobo, a former Brazilian international, scored on his debut for Fluminense.

Other players to receive their marching orders were Nautico defender Lau against Botafogo, Vasco da Gama midfielder Luciano against Santos and Corinthians defender Guinei against Vitoria.

Corinthians' star player Neto, who spent part of the close season at a spa trying to lose weight, missed a penalty as the champions were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Vitoria.

International winger Renato, playing his first match since transferring from Flamengo, scored both goals in Botafogo's 2-0 win over Nautico.

The best performance came from Sao Paulo, coached by Brazil's former World Cup trainer Tele Santana, who won 3-0 away against Atletico Mineiro.



RENATO

English winter break mooted

ENGLAND's season should have a two-month break in January and February to avoid the mid-winter ice and snow, according to Arsenal manager George Graham.

With freezing conditions threatening to wipe out many matches, Graham believes England should follow the example of Germany, France and several other European nations in halting play in January and February.

"It would do the players good and help keep them nice and fresh," Graham said.

"British soccer is the most physically demanding in the world

and the Europeans can't believe our season runs non-stop for nine months.

"I'm always reading that our players look jaded against foreign opposition and that's because there is too much football."

He said a break would allow players to recover from injuries and the league would avoid an end-of-season pile-up of games postponed because of bad weather.

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THIS WEEK ON SBS

YOUR SOCCER STATION

Saturday, March 2

★ **World Soccer** — 5.30pm

Main match: Ajax v PSV — top of the table clash in the Dutch Honour Division as the glamour clubs from Amsterdam and Eindhoven meet in what is traditionally one of the biggest events of the Dutch sports calendar.

Sunday, March 3

★ **European Football** — 10.30am

Main match: Bayer Leverkusen v Bayern Munich — top of the league German Bundesliga action.

★ **Italian Soccer** — 11.30am

One hour reviewing last weekend in the highly acclaimed Italian league. Features a main match and all the goals in the First Division.